# School Rumble

スクールランブル

Shonen Magazine Comics

Vol. 11

小林尽

Jin Kobayashi

# School Rumble

## 11

## Jin Kobayashi

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
**William Flanagan**

LETTERED BY
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*School Rumble* volume 11 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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# Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

## Cultural Note

To preserve some of the humor found in *School Rumble*, we have elected to keep Japanese names in their original Japanese order—that is to say, with the family name first, followed by the personal name. So when you hear the name Tsukamoto Tenma, Tenma is just one member of the Tsukamoto family.

# School Rumble 11

## Jin Kobayashi

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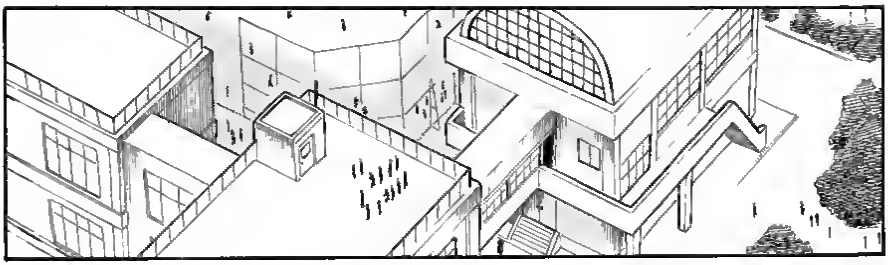
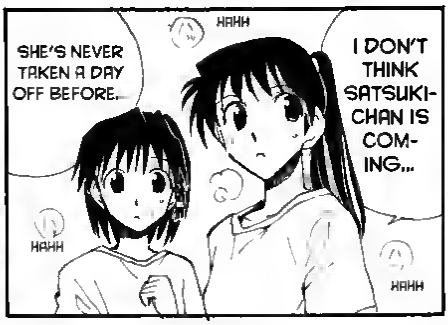
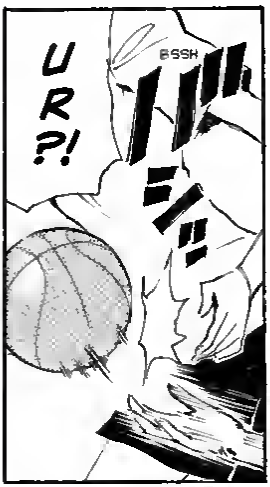
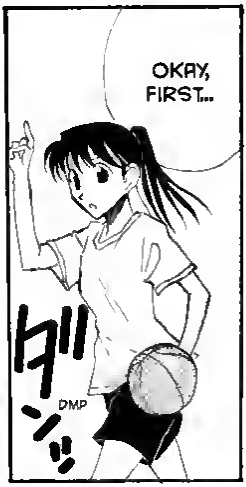
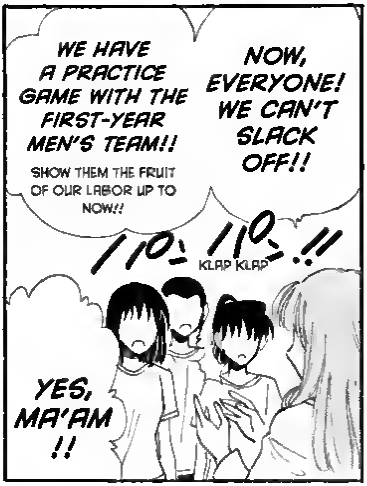




THEY SAY THAT THE LIONESS RAISES HER YOUNG BY THROWING THEM INTO DEEP VALLEYS. FALL, FALL AGAIN, AND RISE A STRONGER CHILD FOR IT!!
PICK YOURSELF UP, TAWARAYA-SAN...

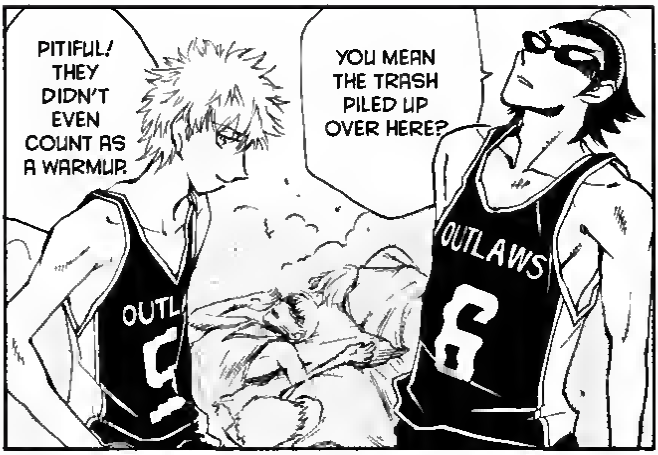


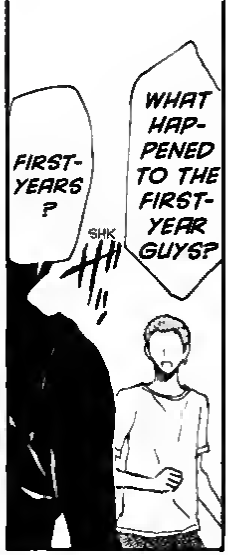



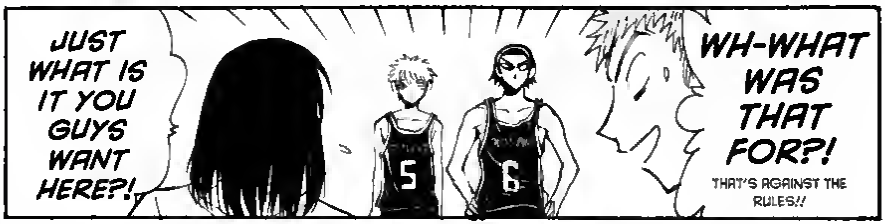


WE HAVE A PRACTICE GAME WITH THE FIRST-YEAR MEN'S TEAM!!
SHOW THEM THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOR UP TO NOW!!
NOW, EVERYONE! WE CAN'T SLACK OFF!!
KLAP KLAP
YES, MA'AM !!

# #130 | SPACE JAM

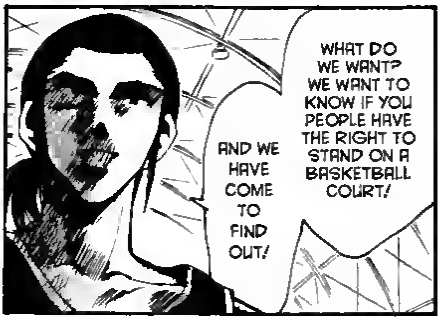
WH-WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
SQEEK
DMP
WHA—?!
H-HE'S QUICK!!
WHO IS HE?!
UH...
FOOMP
ゴッ
YOU! BUT WHY?
TÔGÔ!!
YOU'RE STILL NOT READY. YOU MUST NEVER LOSE CONCENTRATION FOR A MOMENT WHILE YOU'RE ON THE COURT!
HA!
TMP

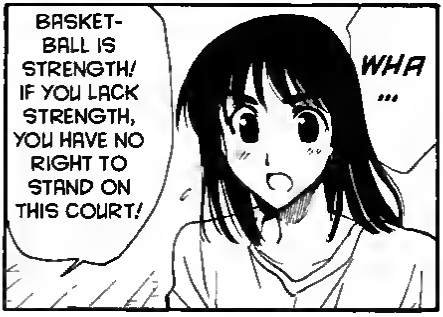

PITIFUL! THEY DIDN'T EVEN COUNT AS A WARMUP.
YOU MEAN THE TRASH PILED UP OVER HERE?
OUTLAWS
6

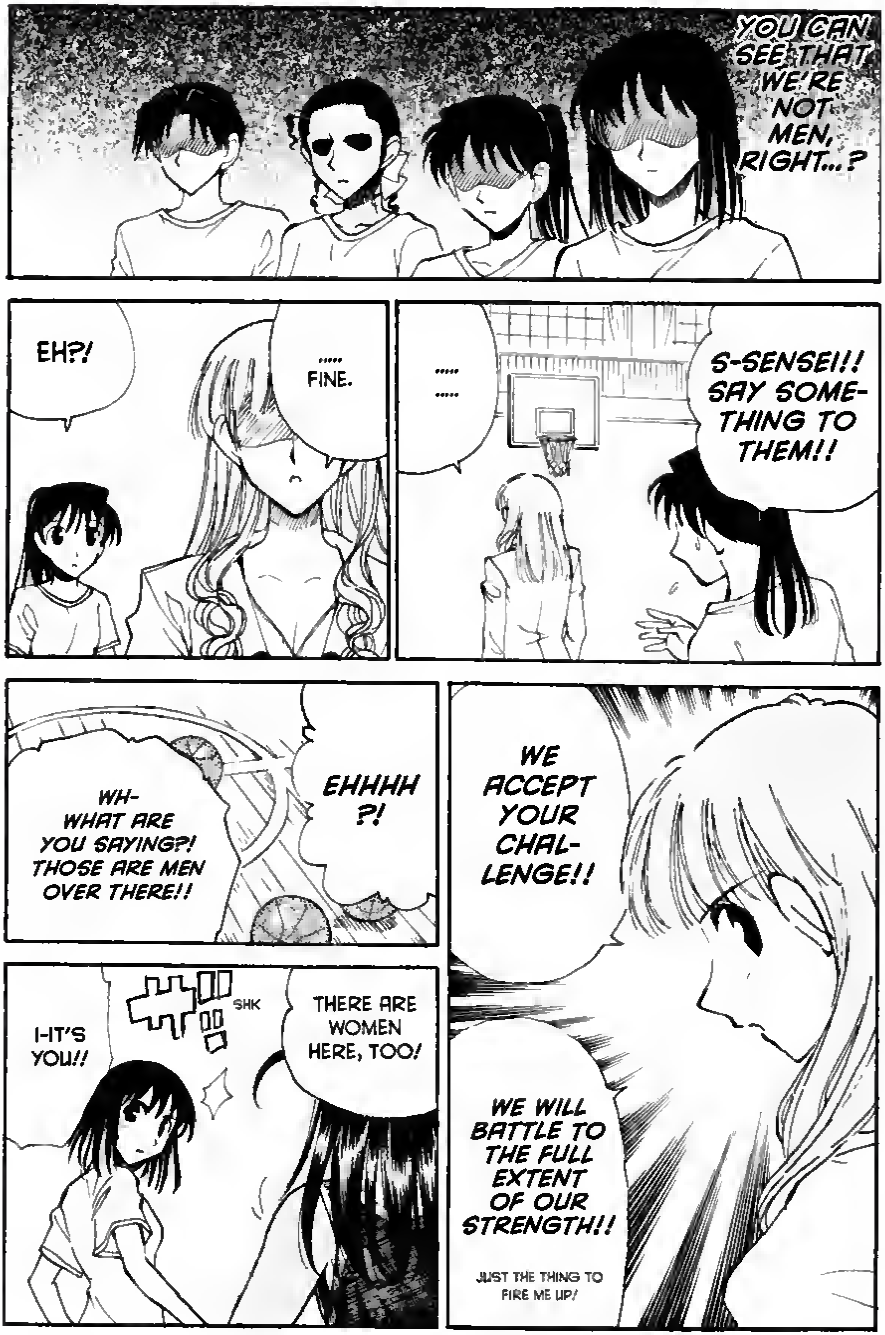

FIRST-YEARS?
SHK
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRST-YEAR GUYS?


JUST WHAT IS IT YOU GUYS WANT HERE?!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!!

NOW! DO YOU DESIRE A FAIR, MAN-TO-MAN BATTLE?!
IF YOU CAN BEAT US, YOU MAY DESERVE TO BE OUR SCHOOL TEAM'S OFFICIAL STARTERS.
OUTLAWS


WHAT DO WE WANT? WE WANT TO KNOW IF YOU PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAND ON A BASKETBALL COURT!
AND WE HAVE COME TO FIND OUT!

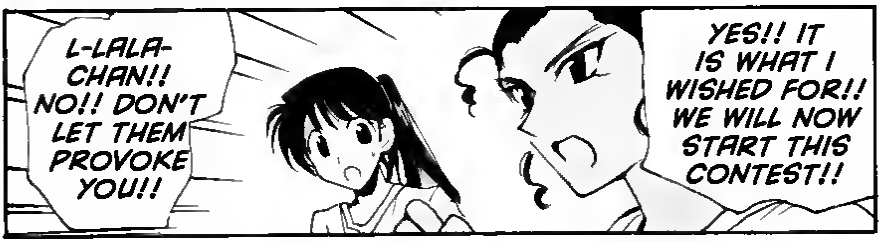

BASKETBALL IS STRENGTH! IF YOU LACK STRENGTH, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO STAND ON THIS COURT!
WHA...


YOU CAN SEE THAT WE'RE NOT MEN, RIGHT...?
EH?!
.....
FINE.
.....
.....
S-SENSEI!! SAY SOME-THING TO THEM!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! THOSE ARE MEN OVER THERE!!
EHHHH?!
WE ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-LENGE!!
I-IT'S YOU!!
SHK
THERE ARE WOMEN HERE, TOO!
WE WILL BATTLE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF OUR STRENGTH!!
JUST THE THING TO FIRE ME UP!

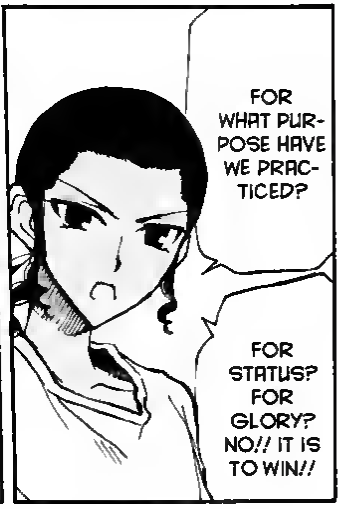
COME BACK, YOU SAY?
DON'T GET INVOLVED IN THIS STUPIDITY! COME BACK TO OUR SIDE!!

MIKO-CHAN... I'M SORRY, BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE ENEMIES!!
I'VE FOUND COMRADES WHO RECOGNIZE MY TALENTS!!

EVEN YOU, YAKUMO?!
ADDED TO THE TEAM BEFORE SHE EVEN REALIZED IT.
TSUKA-MOTO!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
DOOM
OUTLAW
727

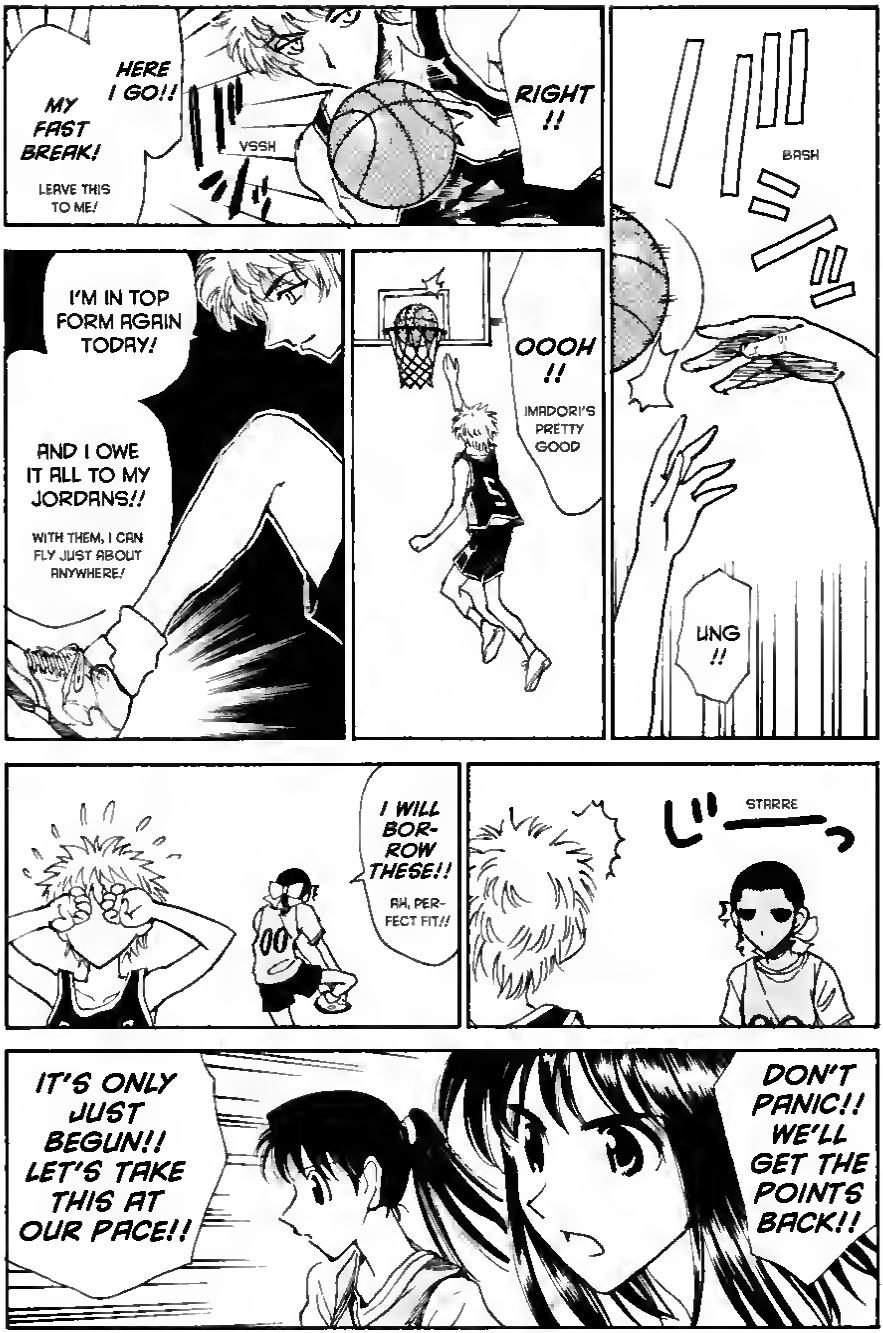

L-LALA-CHAN!! NO!! DON'T LET THEM PROVOKE YOU!!
YES!! IT IS WHAT I WISHED FOR!! WE WILL NOW START THIS CONTEST!!

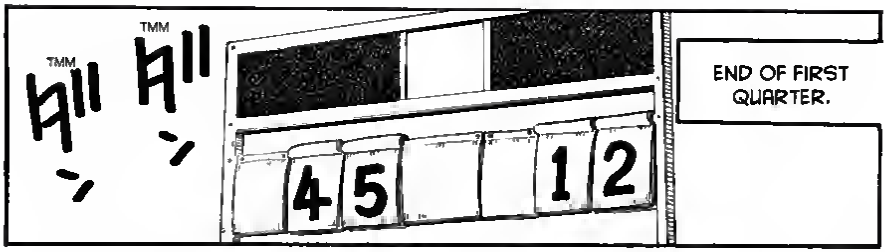
WHAT DO YOU SAY? GIVE IT A TRY?
THAT'S... TRUE...
Y-YEAH... LET'S DO OUR BEST!!


FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAVE WE PRACTICED?
FOR STATUS? FOR GLORY? NO!! IT IS TO WIN!!

WE'LL HAVE THE OPENING TIP! PLAYERS, COME FORWARD!!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...
OKAY, LET'S BEGIN !!
POWER FORWARD HARIMA KENJI (2ND YEAR)
CENTER TÔGÔ MASA-KAZU (2ND YEAR)
CENTER LALA GON-ZALEZ (2ND YEAR)
POWER FORWARD SUÔ MIKOTO (2ND YEAR)
SHOOTING FORWARD IMADORI KYÔSUKE (2ND YEAR)
SHOOTING GUARD TSUKA-MOTO YAKUMO (1ST YEAR)
POINT GUARD TSUKA-MOTO TENMA (2ND YEAR)
POINT GUARD YÛKI TSUMUGI (2ND YEAR)
SHOOTING GUARD SAGANO MEGUMI (2ND YEAR)
SMALL FORWARD ICHIJÔ KAREN (2ND YEAR)

Sorry for the Sudden Change, but Manager Yûki Tsumugi Stands In as a Player.


HERE I GO!!
MY FAST BREAK!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
VSSH
RIGHT !!
BASH
I'M IN TOP FORM AGAIN TODAY!
AND I OWE IT ALL TO MY JORDANS!!
WITH THEM, I CAN FLY JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE!
OOOH !!
IMADORI'S PRETTY GOOD
UNG !!
I WILL BOR-ROW THESE!!
AH, PER-FECT FIT!!
STARRE
IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN!! LET'S TAKE THIS AT OUR PACE!!
DON'T PANIC!! WE'LL GET THE POINTS BACK!!


TMM
TMM
TMM
4 5
1 2
END OF FIRST QUARTER.

THIS ISN'T GOOD! REALLY! WHERE DID SHE GET OFF TO?!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
I KNEW THAT WITHOUT SATSUKI-CHAN, OUR BALL HANDLING WOULD SUFFER...

DAMMIT!! THIS IS PRETTY ROUGH!
EVEN WITHOUT TÔGÔ, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IMAIORI AND HIRAIWA COULD DO THIS WELL?
HAHH
HAHH

ICHIJÔ-SEMPAI'S BAD HABITS ARE SHOWING UP AGAIN!
AND IF SUÔ-SEMPAI KEEPS LEADING FROM THE LEFT, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO READ EVERY MOVE SHE MAKES!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?! THEY CAN MOVE BETTER THAN THAT...
NORMALLY THEY'RE IN CONSTANT MOTION!!

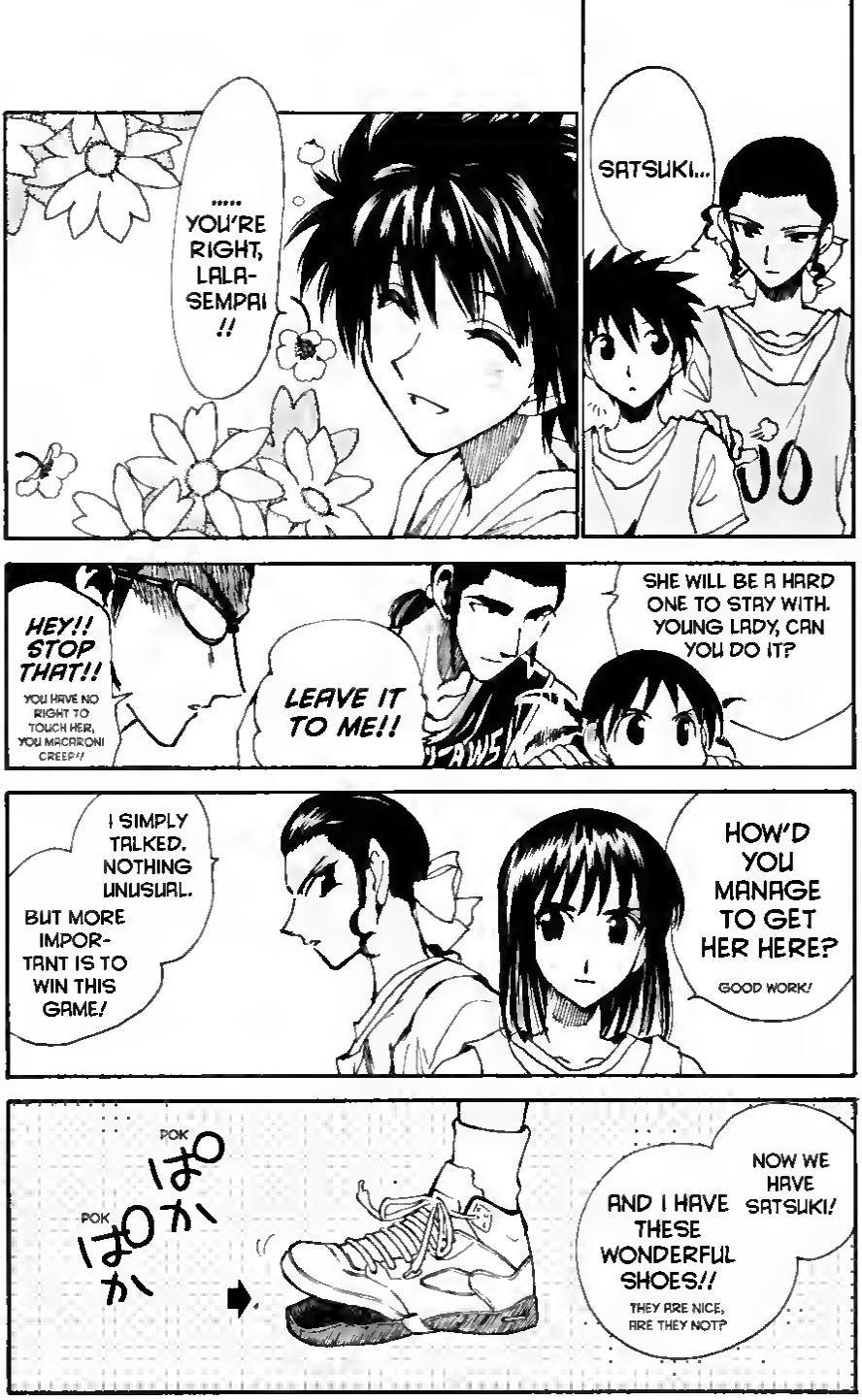
YAAH
YAAH

UNGAAH!!
I WILL SOON BE BACK!!
SOMEONE REPLACE ME, PLEASE!!
GO

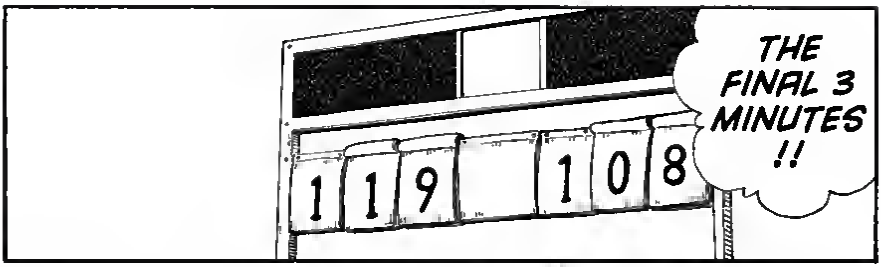
IT IS BECAUSE THEY NEED SATSUKI!
BUT...
YES, I KNOW!
EH...?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW? I AM ONLY A BEGINNER...
IT WAS WHEN A TRUE PLAYER LIKE YOU, SATSUKI, WAS THERE, THAT WE BECAME A TEAM.
LALA-SEMPAI...
B-BUT I...
I'VE DECIDED THAT.
THERE ARE PERFECT WORDS FOR YOU AT THIS MOMENT, SATSUKI.
AM I WRONG?
.....
.....
THAT IS WHY YOU DO NOT TAKE UP THE BALL. IT IS TRUE, IS IT NOT?
YOU HAVE WORRIES ABOUT LOVE, YES?
POFF
JUST YOU LISTEN NOW...

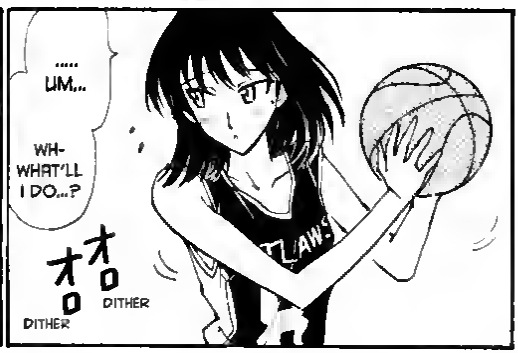
THAT WAS THAT, THIS IS THIS!!
EVERYONE IS AWAITING YOU.
YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU MUST DO NOW.
.....!!
GRMP
AND I AM AWAITING YOU!! YOU MUST NOT FORGET THAT!
WILL YOU DO IT, SATSUKI?!!

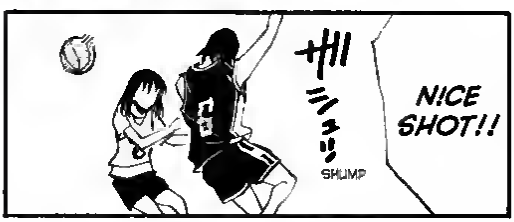
SUBSTI-TUTION!!
10 2
3 2
PWEEET
HAHH
HAHH
I'M SORRY! I TRIED MY BEST...
...BUT SUGA-KUN TOLD ME THAT WITH FIVE FOULS, I'M OUT OF THE GAME!
AND ALL I DID WAS WALK WITH THE BALL...
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME!
SATSUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE LATE!!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
TOGETHER, WE'RE SURE TO WIN!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!! THE GAME ISN'T OVER YET!!
SHKK

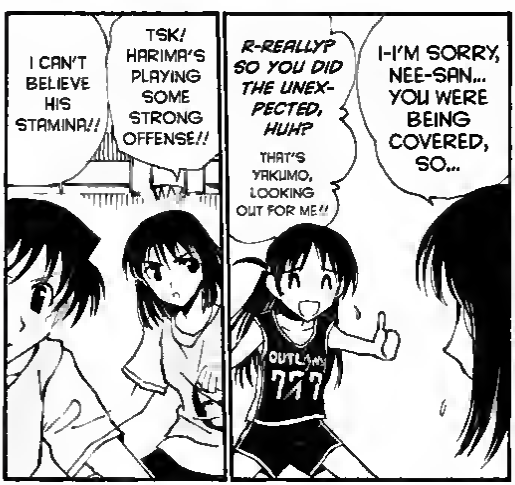

SATSUKI...
..... YOU'RE RIGHT, LALA-SEMPAI !!
SHE WILL BE A HARD ONE TO STAY WITH. YOUNG LADY, CAN YOU DO IT?
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
HEY!! STOP THAT!!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TOUCH HER, YOU MACARONI CREEP!!
HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO GET HER HERE?
GOOD WORK!
I SIMPLY TALKED. NOTHING UNUSUAL.
BUT MORE IMPORTANT IS TO WIN THIS GAME!
POK ぽか
POK ぽか
NOW WE HAVE SATSUKI!
AND I HAVE THESE WONDERFUL SHOES!!
THEY ARE NICE, ARE THEY NOT?

# 130 . . . . . Fin






I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS STAMINA!!
TSK! HARIMA'S PLAYING SOME STRONG OFFENSE!!
R-REALLY? SO YOU DID THE UNEXPECTED, HUH?
THAT'S YAKUMO, LOOKING OUT FOR ME!!
I-I'M SORRY, NEE-SAN... YOU WERE BEING COVERED, SO...

# #131 THE BASKETBALL DIARIES

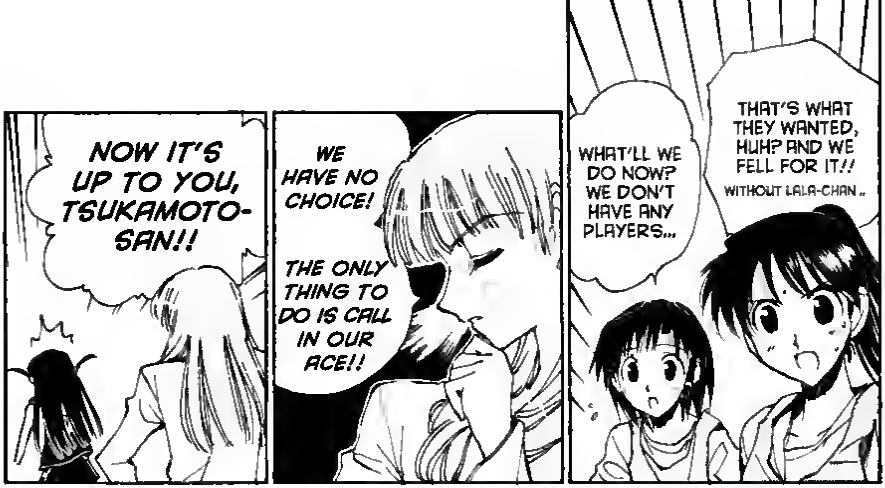
SHE HAS!! THAT'S HER SEV-ENTH ONE!!
FUMP
WHOA!! HAS TAWARAYA MADE YET ANOTHER 3-POINTER?!
HA!
SHUMP
BUT YOU, SATSUKI-CHAN, ARE IN TOP FORM!!
KLAP
NICE ASSIST!! THAT'S SAGANO-SEMPAI FOR YOU!
WE'LL HAVE TO STOP HER SOMEHOW!
THIS COULD BE BAD
CURSE HER! SHE'S ALMOST ANOTHER IVERSON!
WHERE IS OUR DEFENSE?!
SHHT
LAWS
THEN SHUT UP AND GO ON THE ATTACK!!
AND WHO'RE YOU CALLING "PARTNER"?!
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT. KEEP UP THAT SPIRIT AS YOU GO ON OFFENSE!!
HEH! WHAT DO WE DO NOW, PART-NER? IF IT KEEPS UP LIKE THIS, THEY'LL TIE WITH US.
OUTLAW
IT SEEMS THAT, RIGHT NOW, MY BODY IS AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER!!

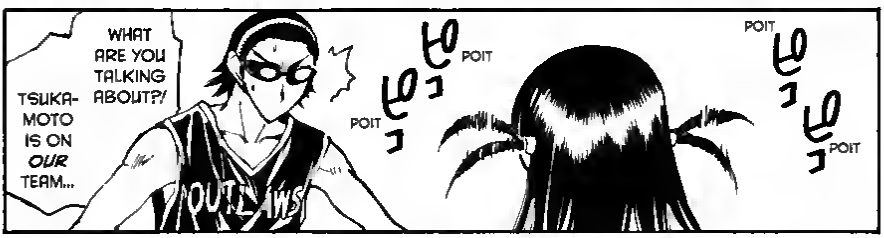
SAY, ICHI-SAN... I'VE GOT A HANDICAP, BAREFOOT LIKE THIS. WHY DON'T YOU PULL YOUR PUNCHES A LITTLE?
HRM...
SHNK
キュッ
I'M SORRY, IMADORI-SAN! EVERYONE IS GIVING THEIR ALL TO THIS GAME!
SO I WON'T GIVE ANYTHING BUT MY BEST!! LET'S KEEP THIS GAME GOING!
HAHH... HAHH...
RIGHT!! IT IS MINE NOW!!
HERE, TAKE IT, LALA-SAN!!
WHOOSH
GWA ?!
VOOSH
NICE STEAL!!
SHE'S MESSING UP MY JORDANS!!
GIVE THEM BACK, YOU BIG...
DAM-MIT!!
FUNG-AAH !!
GRMM

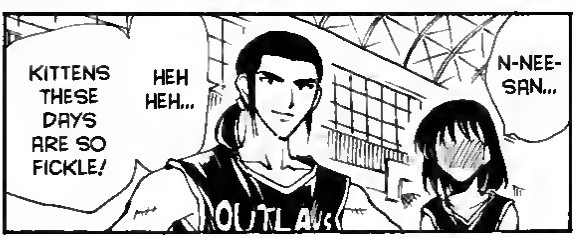
HEY, WE'RE BUDDIES. WE DON'T NEED SUCH THINGS AS "THANKS" BETWEEN US!
THANKS SO MUCH, TÔGÔ-KUN!!
WOW! YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GUY!!
DMP
HUH? SHE GOT BY ME AGAIN!!
URK ...!!
KYUUN
I'M AFRAID YOUR TRAIN STOPS AT THIS STATION!!
ARE YOU THIS NICE TO EVERY-BODY IN CLASS 2-D?
OF COURSE. BUT ONLY BECAUSE WE HAVE NOTHING BUT GOOD PEOPLE IN THE CLASS
DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US?
HUH? MAYBE I'LL CONSIDER TRANSFER-RING IN!!
TWITCH
TWITCH
T-TENMA-CHAN...
I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING. TIME!! OUR PEOPLE NEED A REST!!
AHH!! THEY'RE PULLING AHEAD AGAIN!!
GYUNN
HAA!!
WATCH THIS, TENMA-CHAN!! THIS IS THE HARIMA DUNK!!

PHWEET
THE OFFICIAL TEAM CALLS A TIME-OUT!!
SURE !!
OF COURSE !!
TAWARAYA... CAN YOU.. UM...
HAHH
HAHH
CAN I ASK YOU TO WORK ON THAT?
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TURN THIS SCORE AROUND IS TO CROWD THEIR HOT PLAYERS.
Y-YOU WILL? THEN GIVE IT YOUR BEST.
WH-WHAT?!
キュッ
KYUN
EVERY-BODY, LET'S HAVE NOISE UNTIL THE END!!
FINAL 2 MIN-UTES!!
YEAH!!

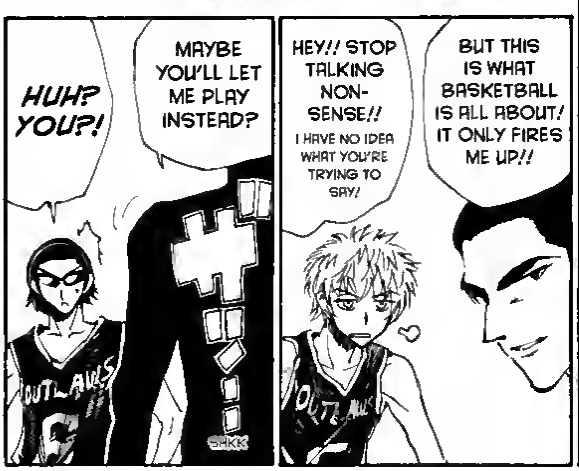
KYUUN
ALL RIGHT!! JUST TRY IT!!
OUTLAWS
27
00
GONNG
DMP
OUT OF MY WAY!!
DO NOT MAKE ME LAUGH!!
OWW !!
THAT HURT!!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
LALA ON... TSUKAMOTO?!
WHAT A MISMATCH!!
DONCH
UWA-AAH!!
EYUUUH !!
GANCH
WHA-?!
OFFEN-SIVE FOUL!!
PHWEET
WHAT?! DO NOT MAKE JOKES!!
I SIMPLY GAVE HER A SMALL PUSH
LALA, YOU'RE OUT OF THE GAME!!
THAT'S FIVE FOULS !!
PHWEET

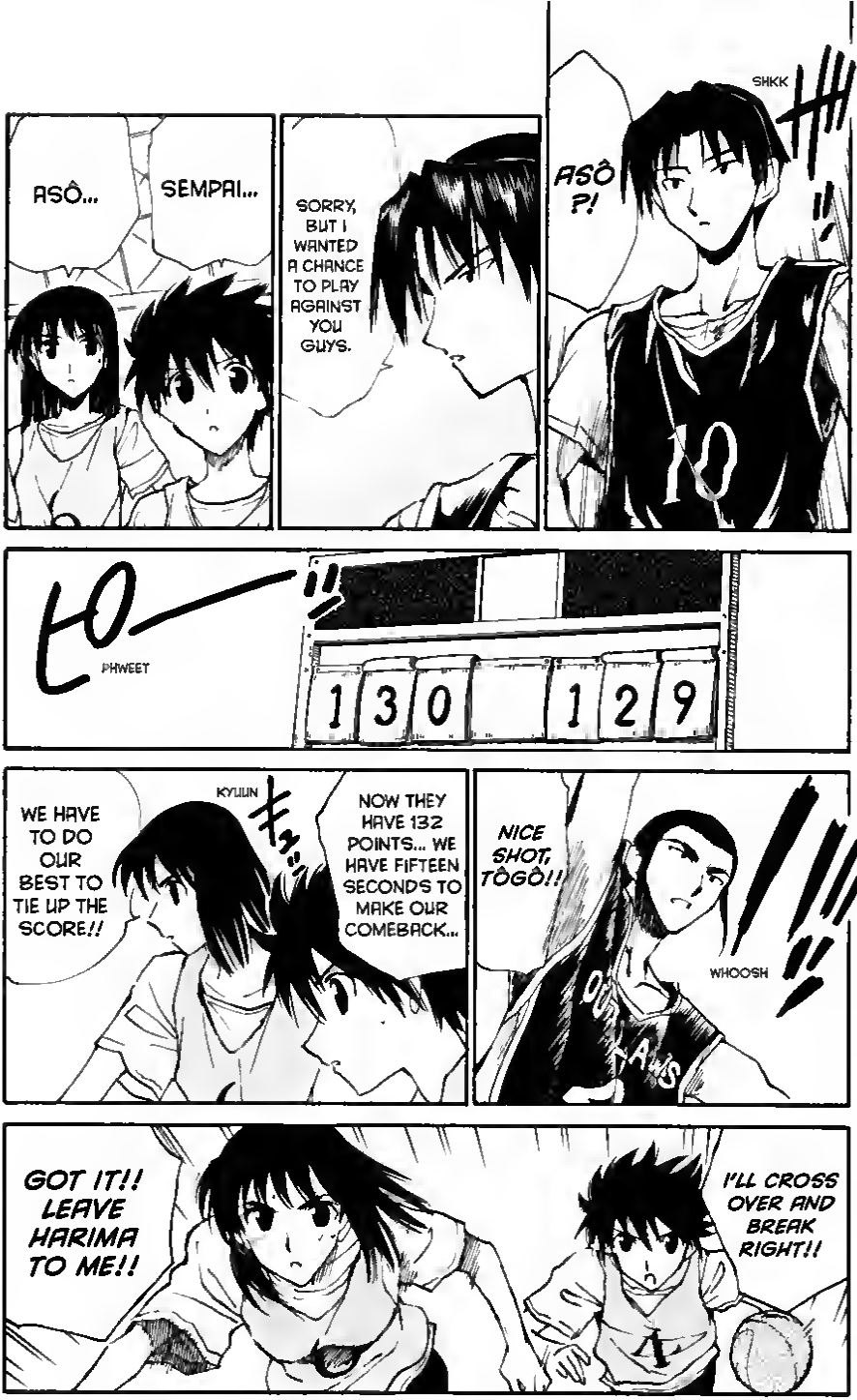

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU, TSUKAMOTO-SAN!!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
THE ONLY THING TO DO IS CALL IN OUR ACE!!
WHAT'LL WE DO NOW? WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLAYERS...
THAT'S WHAT THEY WANTED, HUH? AND WE FELL FOR IT!!
WITHOUT LALA-CHAN..


TSUKA-MOTO IS ON OUR TEAM...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
POIT
POIT
POIT
POIT
OUTLAWS


KITTENS THESE DAYS ARE SO FICKLE!
HEH HEH...
N-NEE-SAN...
OUTLAWS

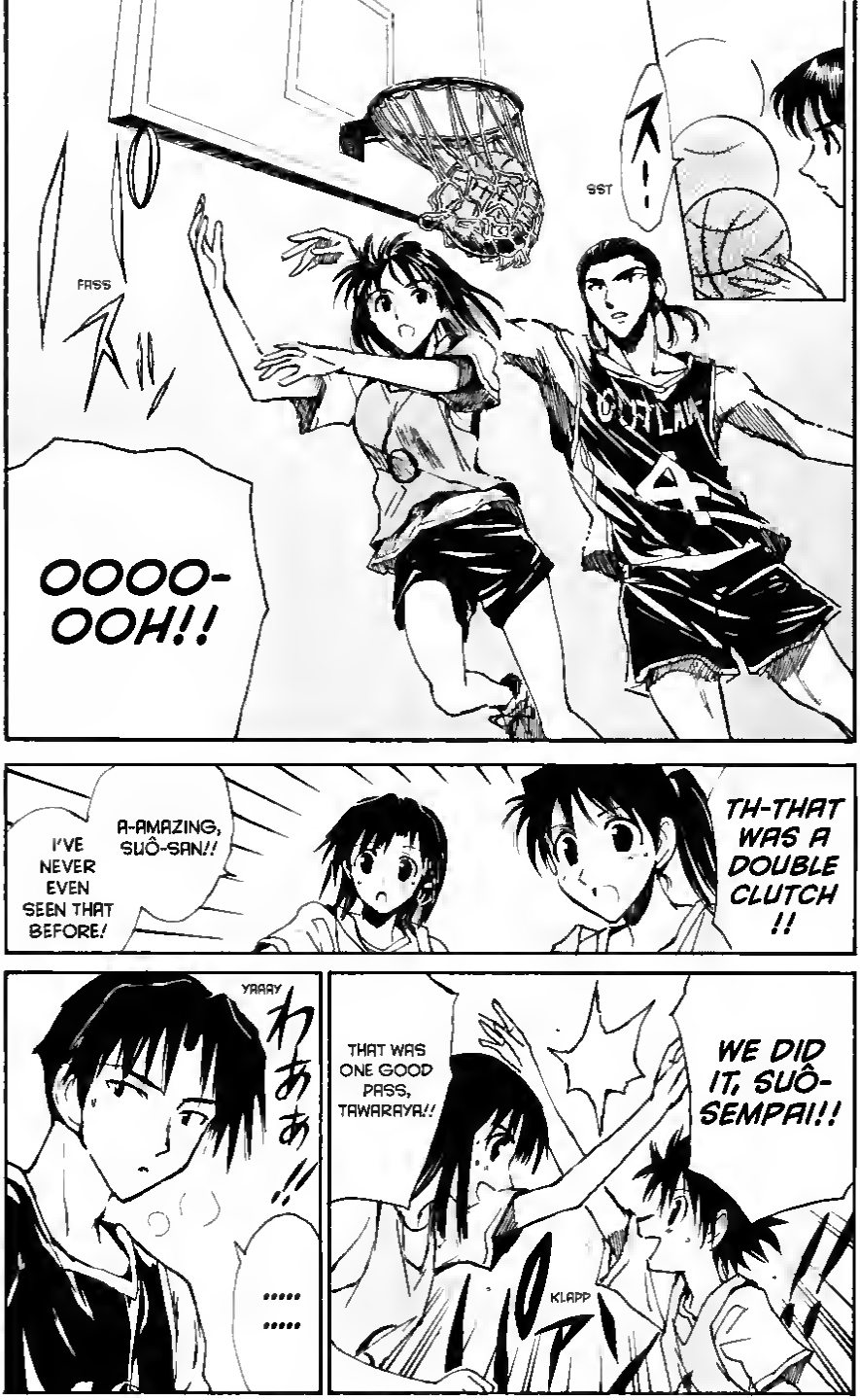
TSUKA-MOTO !!
EVERY-BODY, I'M BACK!!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG!!
WHEE!! MIKOCHAN!!
TAHDAHH!!

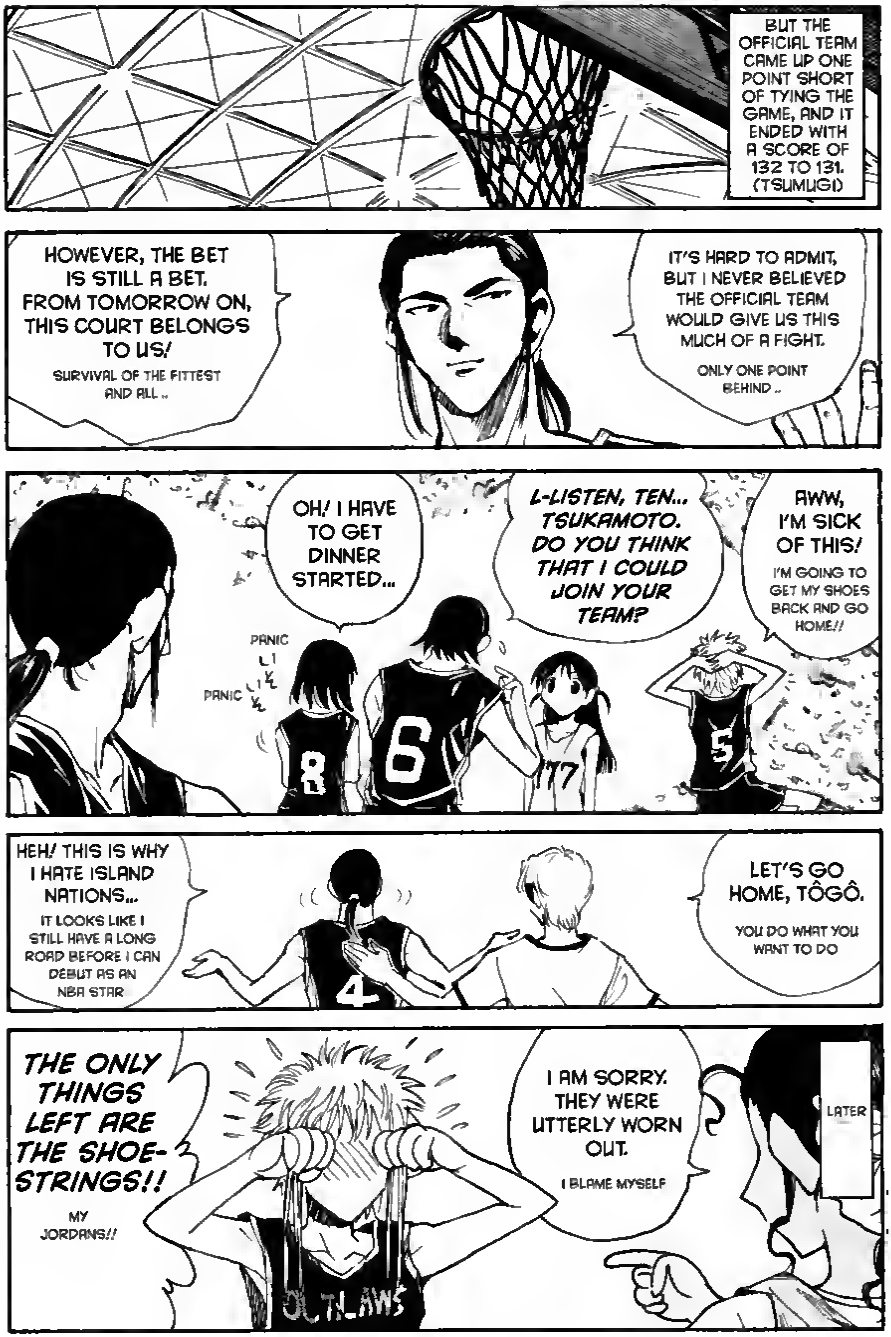

HUH? YOU?!
MAYBE YOU'LL LET ME PLAY INSTEAD?
HEY!! STOP TALKING NON-SENSE!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY!
BUT THIS IS WHAT BASKETBALL IS ALL ABOUT! IT ONLY FIRES ME UP!!
OUTLAWS
OUTLAWS
SHKK


ASÔ...
SEMPAI...
SORRY, BUT I WANTED A CHANCE TO PLAY AGAINST YOU GUYS.
SHKK
ASÔ ?!
10
PHWEET
130
129
KYUUN
WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST TO TIE UP THE SCORE!!
NOW THEY HAVE 132 POINTS... WE HAVE FIFTEEN SECONDS TO MAKE OUR COMEBACK...
NICE SHOT, TÔGÔ!!
WHOOSH
GOT IT!! LEAVE HARIMA TO ME!!
I'LL CROSS OVER AND BREAK RIGHT!!

IT'S TWO-ON-TWO JUST IN FRONT OF THE BAS-KET!!
KYUU
SHE WON'T PASS!! IF I STEAL AS SHE DRIVES IN, I CAN WIN THIS MATCHUP!!
IF THAT'S TRUE, SHE SHOULD BE COMING MY WAY...!!
TAWARAYA IS ON FIRE TODAY... BUT SUÔ SHOULD BE PRETTY MUCH OUT OF ENERGY...
WHA—?! A PASS?!
SHM
GOOD!! I WAS RIGHT!!
WHOOSH
SQEE
ALL RIGHT!! NICE FAKE!!
BATCH

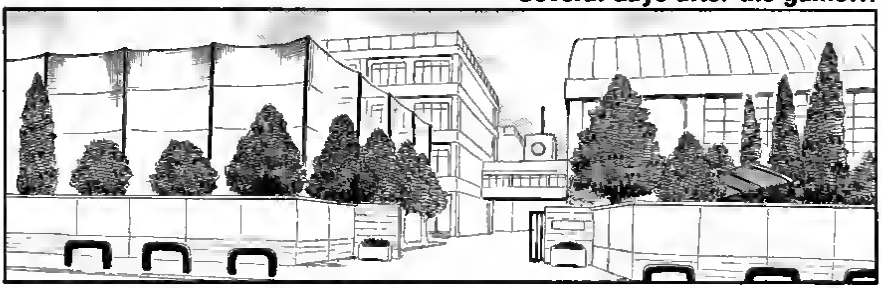
DAMMIT !!
HARIMA ...
STOP HER!! AH...?!
DEFENSE!
ディフェンス♡
DEFENSE!
HO!
HA!
SOME-BODY, STOP SUÔ!!
WHOOSH
NOT THIS TIME!!

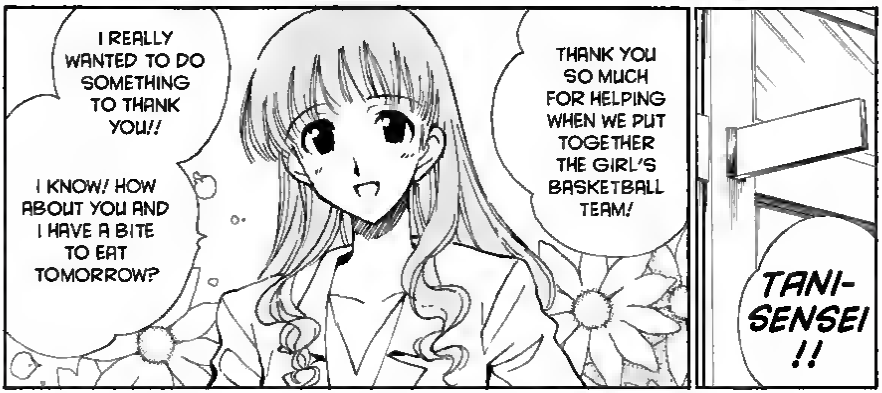

PASS
SST
OOOO-OOH!!
TH-THAT WAS A DOUBLE CLUTCH !!
A-AMAZING, SUÔ-SAN!!
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THAT BEFORE!
YAAAY
わあ!!
.....
.....
THAT WAS ONE GOOD PASS, TAWARAYA!!
WE DID IT, SUÔ-SEMPAI!!
KLAPP

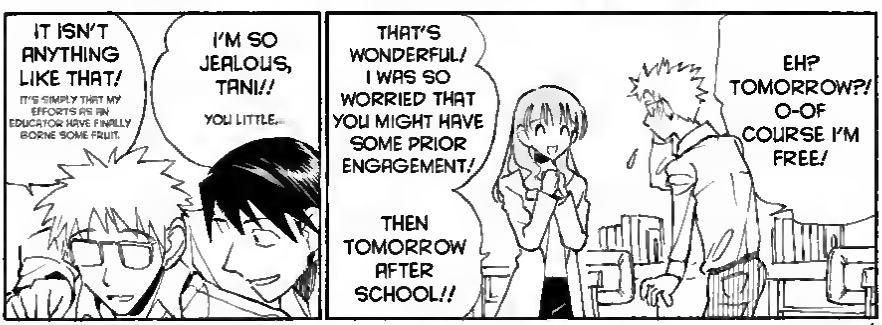

BUT THE OFFICIAL TEAM CAME UP ONE POINT SHORT OF TYING THE GAME, AND IT ENDED WITH A SCORE OF 132 TO 131. (TSUMUGI)
HOWEVER, THE BET IS STILL A BET. FROM TOMORROW ON, THIS COURT BELONGS TO US!
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST AND ALL ..
IT'S HARD TO ADMIT, BUT I NEVER BELIEVED THE OFFICIAL TEAM WOULD GIVE US THIS MUCH OF A FIGHT.
ONLY ONE POINT BEHIND ..
OH! I HAVE TO GET DINNER STARTED...
L-LISTEN, TEN... TSUKAMOTO. DO YOU THINK THAT I COULD JOIN YOUR TEAM?
AWW, I'M SICK OF THIS!
I'M GOING TO GET MY SHOES BACK AND GO HOME!!
PANIC
PANIC
HEH! THIS IS WHY I HATE ISLAND NATIONS...
IT LOOKS LIKE I STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD BEFORE I CAN DEBUT AS AN NBA STAR
LET'S GO HOME, TÔGÔ.
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
THE ONLY THINGS LEFT ARE THE SHOE-STRINGS!!
MY JORDANS!!
I AM SORRY. THEY WERE UTTERLY WORN OUT.
I BLAME MYSELF
LATER
OUTLAWS

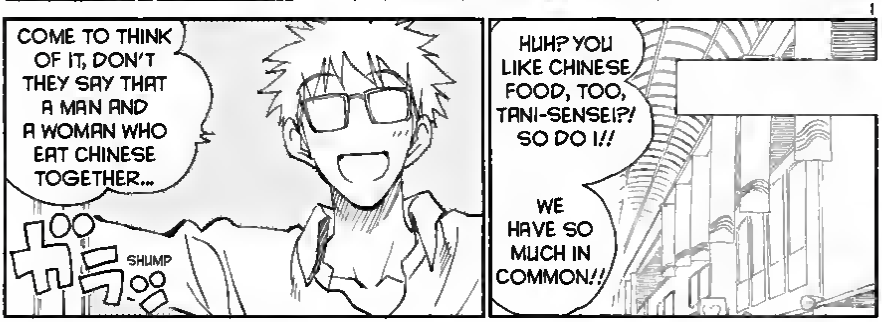
# 131 . . . . . Fin

Several days after the game...



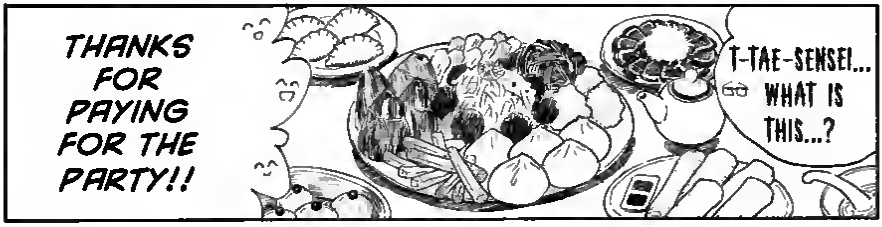

I REALLY WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO THANK YOU!!
I KNOW! HOW ABOUT YOU AND I HAVE A BITE TO EAT TOMORROW?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING WHEN WE PUT TOGETHER THE GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM!
TANI-SENSEI!!

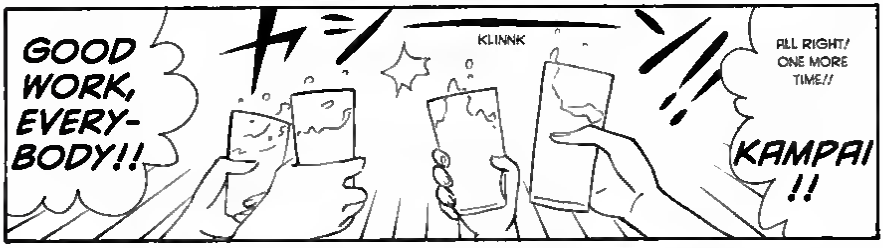

IT ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S SIMPLY THAT MY EFFORTS AS AN EDUCATOR HAVE FINALLY BORNE SOME FRUIT.
I'M SO JEALOUS, TANI!!
YOU LITTLE...
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I WAS SO WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME PRIOR ENGAGEMENT!
THEN TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL!!
EH? TOMORROW?! O-OF COURSE I'M FREE!


COME TO THINK OF IT, DON'T THEY SAY THAT A MAN AND A WOMAN WHO EAT CHINESE TOGETHER...
SHUMP
HUH? YOU LIKE CHINESE FOOD, TOO, TANI-SENSEI?! SO DO I!!
WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!!

# # 132 THE BROWNING VERSION

PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY STARTED EATING!! COME IN!!
TANI-SENSEI, YOU'RE LATE!!


THANKS FOR PAYING FOR THE PARTY!!
T-TAE-SENSEI... WHAT IS THIS...?


GOOD WORK, EVERY-BODY!!
KLINNK
ALL RIGHT! ONE MORE TIME!!
KAMPAI !!

WE'LL GIVE IT OUR BEST AT THE REGIONAL TOURNA-MENT FOR YOU, SEMPAI!
A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO WATCH OUR BASKETBALL GAME, AND MANY OF THEM JOINED!!

CHATTER CHATTER
I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT, SATSUKI-CHAN! THEY SAY THAT THE CLUB'S MEMBER-SHIP IS WAY UP!!
IT'S TRUE !!

TAKANO. THANKS FOR DOING THE PUBLICITY FOR THE GIRLS' BASKETBALL CLUB!
THINK NOTHING OF IT.
WE CAME OUT IN THE BLACK
BUT WHEN DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO TAKE ALL THAT VIDEO?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU MADE A DOCUMENTARY!
YOU EVEN HAD IT NARRATED
LALA-SAN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF CUTE NEW KÔHAI!
I-I ONLY WANTED TO WIN THE GAME.
BUT I HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.
IT WENT ON ONLY A SHORT TIME, BUT IT SURE TOOK ALL OUR ATTENTION, HUH?
SAGANO, AREN'T YOU GOING TO KEEP DOING GIRLS' BASKETBALL?
I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS WANTED THIS!
HM... ...
I'D LOVE TO KEEP IT UP, BUT THE MEN'S REGIONALS ARE COMING UP PRETTY QUICKLY.
AND IF I DON'T GO BACK TO WRESTLING SOON, THE COACH WILL...
THAT IS RIGHT!! I STILL HAVE NOT PITTED MY STRENGTH AGAINST ICHI JÔ!!
OF COURSE, MIKO-CHIN!! OUR FINAL MATCH IS YET TO BE ALSO!!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS MIKO-CHIN STUFF?

EH? ME?
NOT ME. I'M STILL LIKE A BEGINNER JUST HANDED A BALL.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIKO-CHAN?
YOU'VE COME THIS FAR. YOU SHOULD KEEP IT UP!
I CAN VOUCH FOR THAT.
Y-YOU THINK SO? BUT I'VE GOT MY DOJO, AND...
HUH?! THAT ISN'T TRUE!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ADVANCED THE MOST OUT OF ALL OF US!!
IF YOU WERE TO QUIT NOW, IT'D BE A REAL WASTE.
I FACED OFF AGAINST YOU DIRECTLY, SO YOU CAN BELIEVE WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.
SERIOUSLY, SUŌ. YOU HAVE TALENT.
IF YOU CONTINUE INTO YOUR THIRD YEAR, YOU'LL COME OUT AT A PRETTY HIGH LEVEL.
I THINK SO, TOO!!
M-ME, TOO!!
UM...

Y-YOU HAVE A SENSE OF THE GAME, SUÔ-SEMPAI! AND YOU'RE TALL!
YOU LOOK AFTER ME... AND EVERYBODY ON THE TEAM...
AND YOU'RE GOOD AT TEAM PLAY!! YOU REALLY ARE CUT OUT TO PLAY BASKET-BALL!!
SATSUKI-CHAN...
OH, HO!
TAWARAYA...
WHAT IS IT, ERI? WHAT DO YOU HAVE GOING ON?
WELL, WE ARE SECOND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ...
..... IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE HAS THINGS GOING ON IN THEIR LIVES...
HAVE YOU GIVEN IT SERIOUS CONSID-ERATION?
I'LL BE EXPECTING AN ANSWER SOON.
DO YOU REMEMBER MY OFFER?
WE MEET AGAIN IN A PLACE WE NEVER EXPECTED.
WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T THE FICKLE YOUNG LADY.

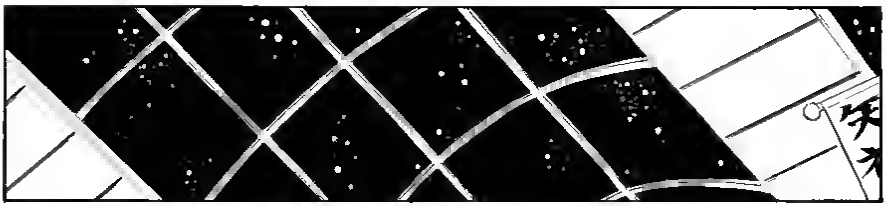
YOU MACARONI CREEP!!
TRYING TO SEDUCE TENMA-CHAN!!
WOW!! THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!! I'LL DO IT!!
DO YOU HAVE A WINDOW SEAT OPEN?
WHAT DO YOU SAY? YOU'RE CERTAIN TO BE A TRUE ASSET!
WE'LL SET ASIDE A VIP SEAT FOR YOU
TONK
GLUG
DAMMIT!! THIS ISN'T ANY FUN!
YOU'RE STILL AT IT? I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE!
..... LISTEN... UH... I'M...
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT, YOU DOLT?!
HEY, BEARD! I'M BORED!
SAY SOME-THING INTER-ESTING.
..... I SEE...

SEMPAI!!
EH? LET ME SEE!!
N-NOTHING... I WAS JUST MAKING SURE THE CROWD...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
LISTEN! TWO PEOPLE BEING IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME DOESN'T MAKE THEM A COUPLE.
SAY, ARE ASÔ-KUN AND SARAH-CHAN GOING OUT?
AHA! SO THAT'S WHAT HAS YOU WORRIED!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

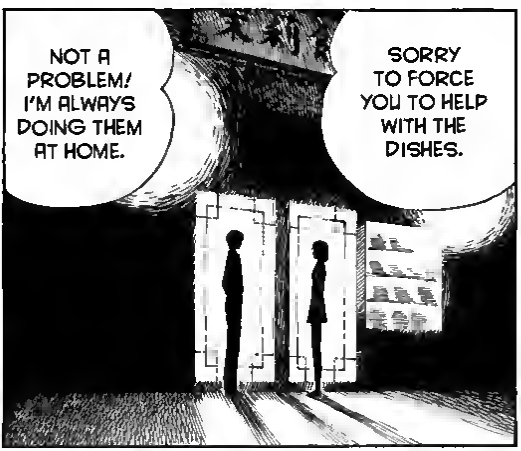
WOW, THAT'S SO CUTE!!
SEE? A CRAB..
SORRY, YAKUMO! I KNOW YOU CAME FOR FUN, AND I'M FORCING YOU TO WORK!
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I MAKE THESE ALL THE TIME AT HOME...
HEY, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE THE GUEST OF HONOR! GET BACK TO THE PARTY!
ALL RIGHT!! IT'S ABOUT TIME TO WRAP THINGS UP!!
EHHHH?!
BUT WE'RE STILL EATING!!
KLAP KLAP
COME NOW!! JUST PUT YOURSELF IN TANI-SENSEI'S PLACE!
LOOK AT HIS TEARS!!
T-TAE-SENSEI...
SO I REALLY AM PRYING FOR THIS...?
TANI! EAT!! I SPECIAL-ORDERED IT!!
MUNCH MUNCH
I DON'T WANT IT.

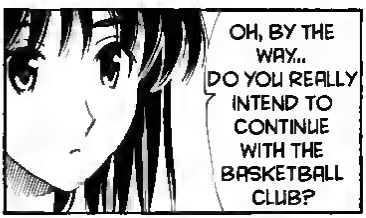
...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT "THAT"?
I AM ROOTING FOR YOU
"THIS" IS OVER, BUT...
WHISPER
HEY, SATSUKI!
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH EVERYBODY ATE!!
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT ADD TO YOUR CONFUSION IF I WERE TEACHING...
NO, THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SEMPAI? SHOULDN'T YOU BE THINKING ABOUT GETTING BACK TO THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM NOW?
OH, TAWARAYA... DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THINGS ALL ON YOUR OWN?

WITH A TALENTED COACH LIKE ASÔ-SEMPAI...
...SUÔ-SEMPAI WILL BECOME A GIFTED PLAYER!
EH?
SEE YOU!
BOTH OF YOU GIVE IT YOUR ALL!!
THE GIRLS' TEAM WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
JUST GO HOME!!
I'M GO-ING!!
LET'S GO, SATSUKI.
SA-TSUKI?
YEAH... LET'S GO HOME!!

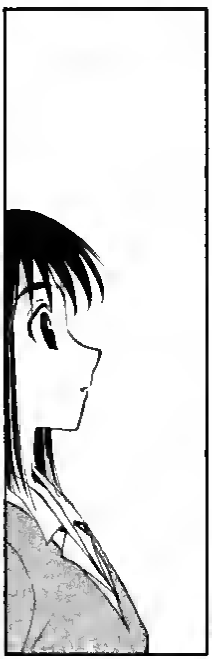


OKAY, THEN...


NOT A PROBLEM! I'M ALWAYS DOING THEM AT HOME.
SORRY TO FORCE YOU TO HELP WITH THE DISHES.


OH, BY THE WAY... DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH THE BASKETBALL CLUB?

YEAH, THANKS! I'LL TAKE MY TIME AND THINK IT OVER ON THE WAY HOME.



I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD.
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU TOO

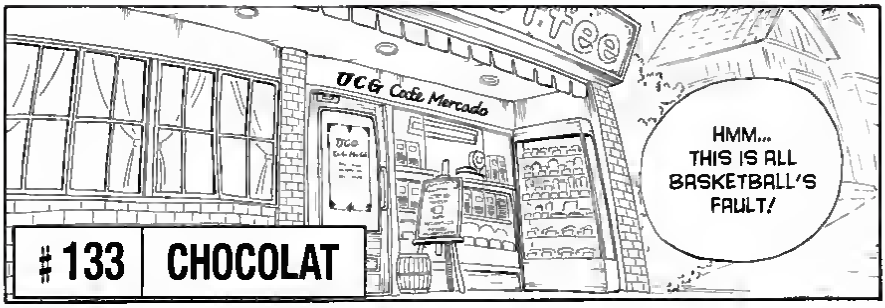
IF YOU DO DECIDE TO CONTINUE IT...
...I CAN HELP YOU BUY THE RIGHT BASKETBALL SHOES.

THANKS.

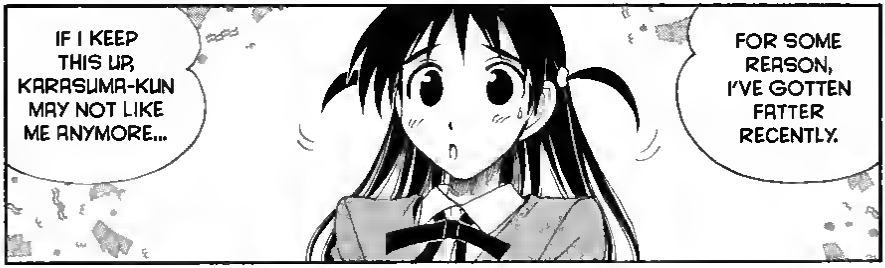
MMMM...

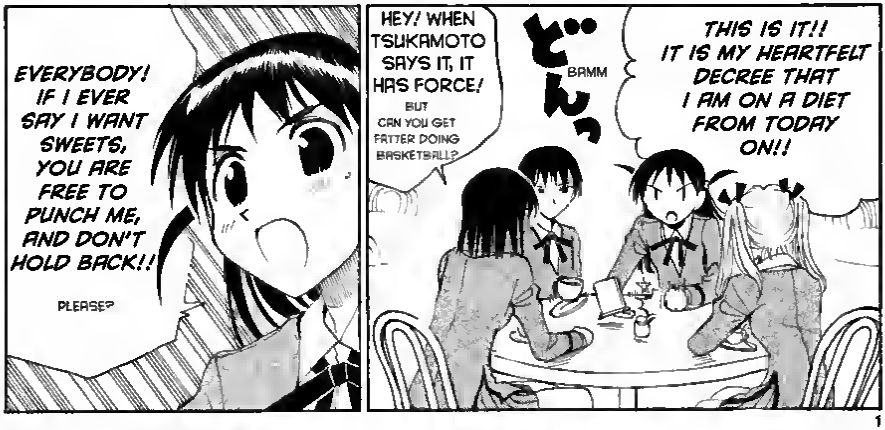
S-SUÔ! I HEARD THAT YAKUMO-KUN HAS TAKEN UP BASKETBALL, RIGHT?
WHY THE BIG SECRET? WHEN'S THE NEXT PRACTICE?
HAHH
HAHH

# 132 · · · · · · · · · Fin

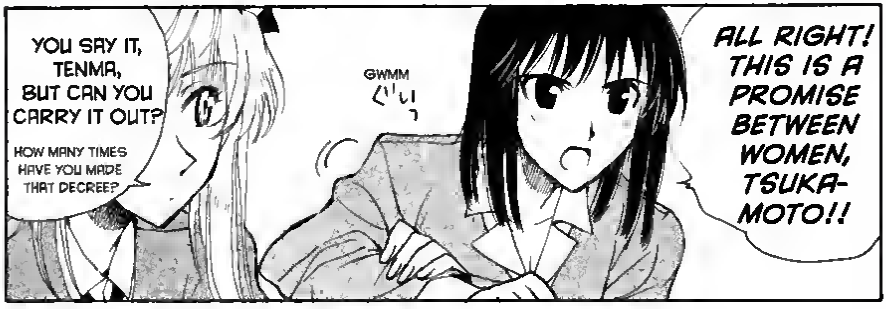



# #133 CHOCOLAT

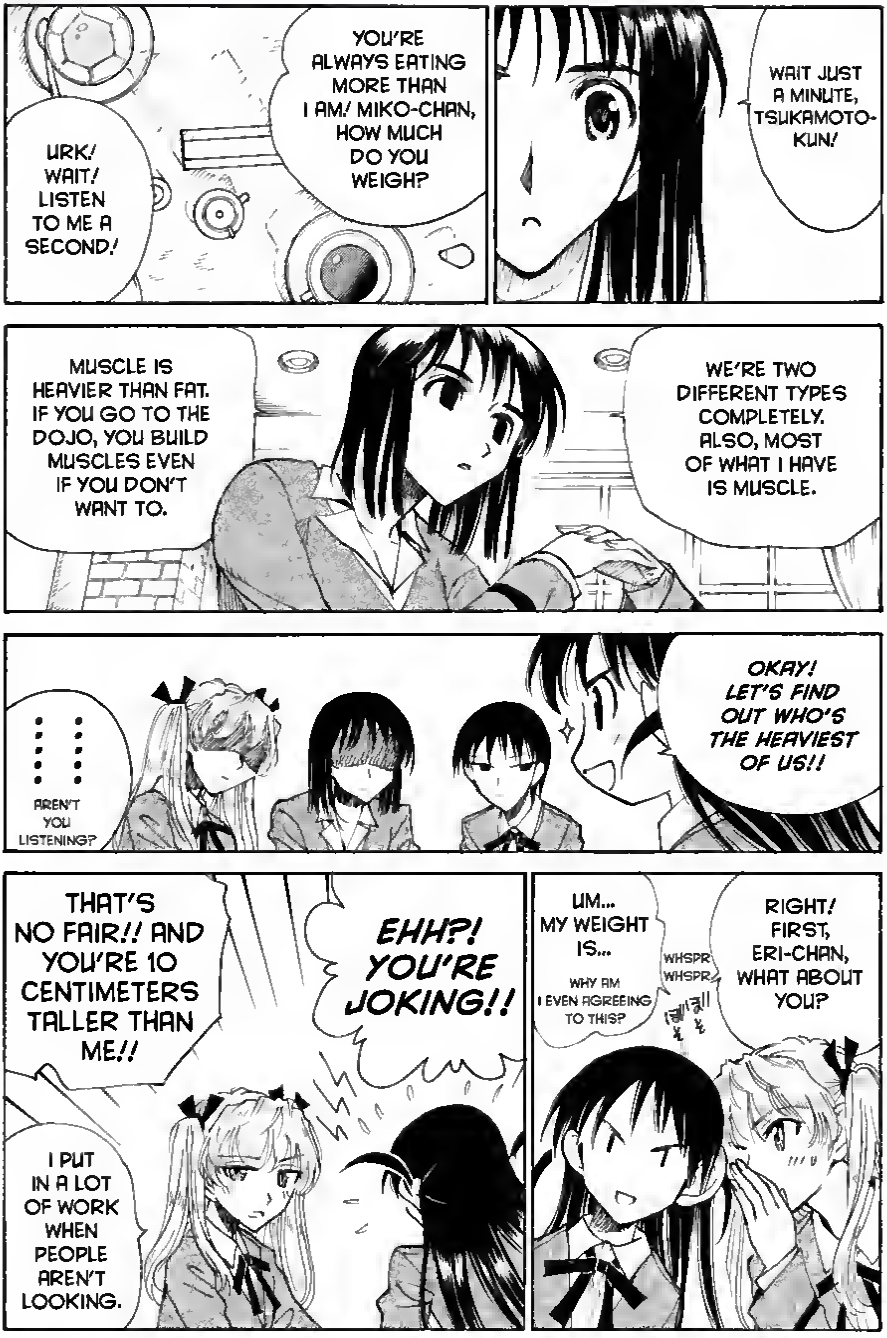


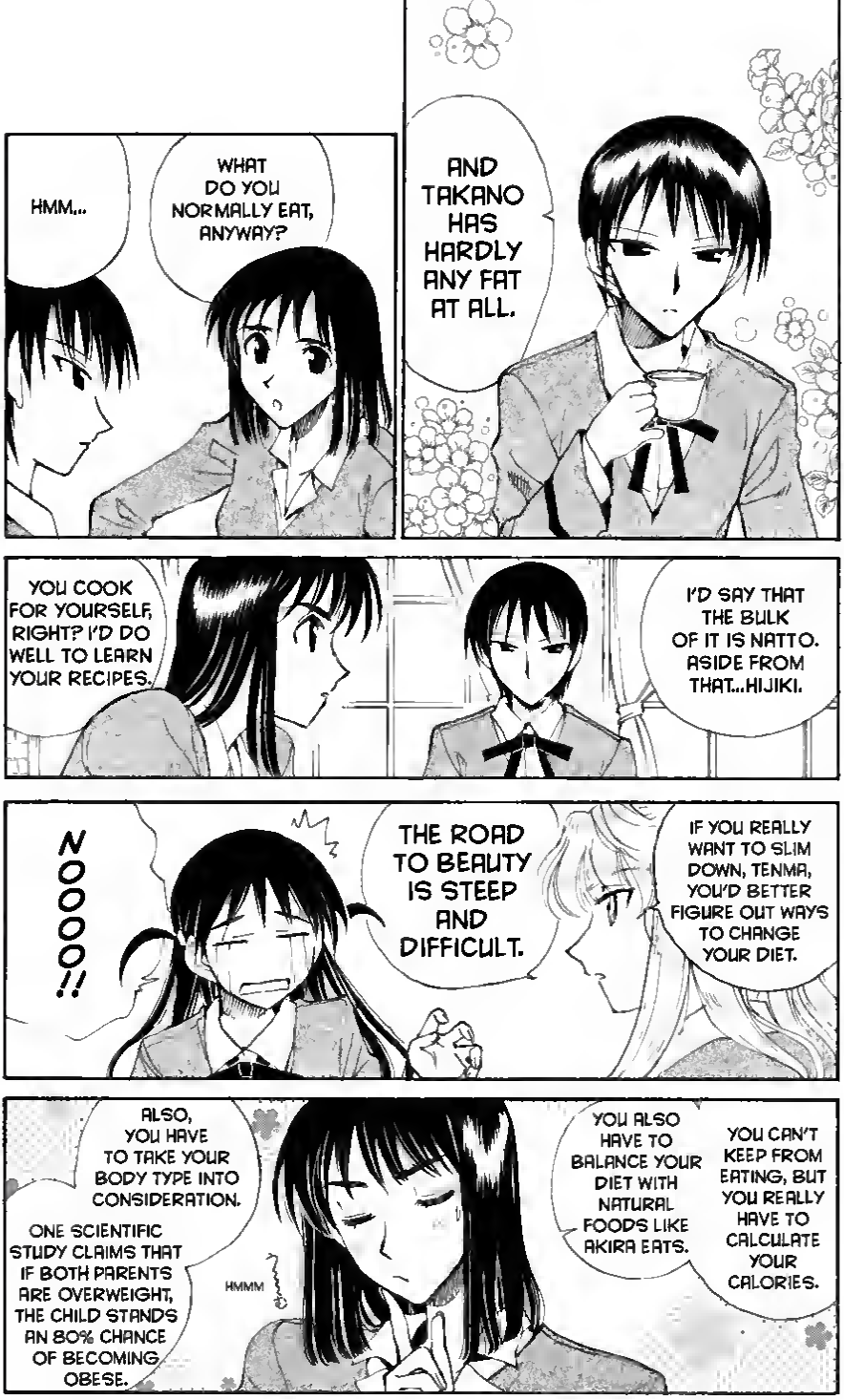


EVERYBODY! IF I EVER SAY I WANT SWEETS, YOU ARE FREE TO PUNCH ME, AND DON'T HOLD BACK!!
PLEASE?
HEY! WHEN TSUKAMOTO SAYS IT, IT HAS FORCE!
BUT CAN YOU GET FATTER DOING BASKETBALL?
どんっ
BAMM
THIS IS IT!! IT IS MY HEARTFELT DECREE THAT I AM ON A DIET FROM TODAY ON!!

1


YOU SAY IT, TENMA, BUT CAN YOU CARRY IT OUT?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU MADE THAT DECREE?
GWMM
ぐいっ
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS A PROMISE BETWEEN WOMEN, TSUKA-MOTO!!

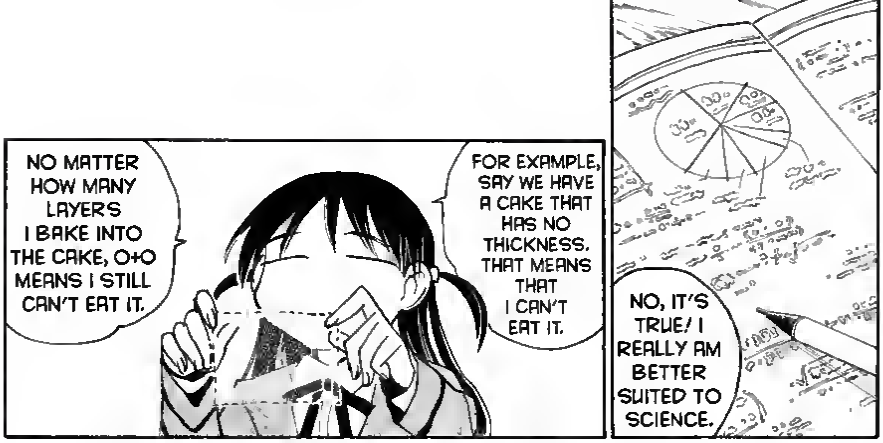
AWW, I WANT SWEETS!!
I'M SUCH A GOOD FRIEND...
SKRT
MIKO-CHAN!! YOU'RE A MEANIE!!
VIOLENCE NEVER SOLVES ANYTHING!
OWW!!
BAMM
ぼか!!
YES. I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
AND TENMA'S ESPECIALLY WEAK.
BUT I DOUBT ANYTHING SHORT OF THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE BATTLING SWEETS.
ちっ
PWIK
BESIDES, MIKO-CHAN IS MUCH HEAVIER THAN I AM!
WHY DO THINGS LIKE THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME...

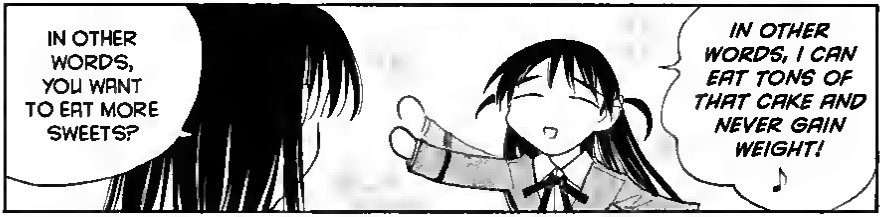

YOU'RE ALWAYS EATING MORE THAN I AM./ MIKO-CHAN, HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?
URK./ WAIT./ LISTEN TO ME A SECOND./
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, TSUKAMOTO-KUN./
MUSCLE IS HEAVIER THAN FAT. IF YOU GO TO THE DOJO, YOU BUILD MUSCLES EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
WE'RE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES COMPLETELY. ALSO, MOST OF WHAT I HAVE IS MUSCLE.
AREN'T YOU LISTENING?
OKAY! LET'S FIND OUT WHO'S THE HEAVIEST OF US!!
THAT'S NO FAIR!! AND YOU'RE 10 CENTIMETERS TALLER THAN ME!!
EHH?! YOU'RE JOKING!!
I PUT IN A LOT OF WORK WHEN PEOPLE AREN'T LOOKING.
UM... MY WEIGHT IS...
WHY AM I EVEN AGREEING TO THIS?
WHSPR WHSPR
RIGHT! FIRST, ERI-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT YOU?

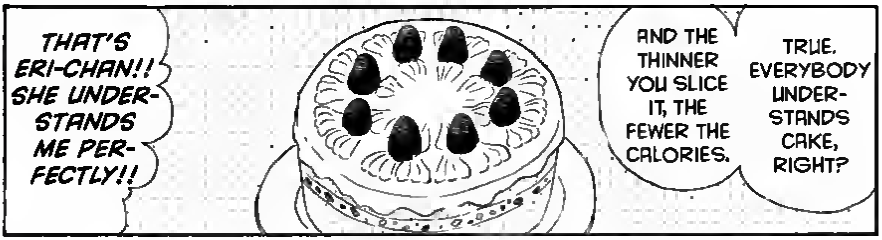

AND TAKANO HAS HARDLY ANY FAT AT ALL.
WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY EAT, ANYWAY?
HMM...
I'D SAY THAT THE BULK OF IT IS NATTO. ASIDE FROM THAT...HIJIKI.
YOU COOK FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT? I'D DO WELL TO LEARN YOUR RECIPES.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SLIM DOWN, TENMA, YOU'D BETTER FIGURE OUT WAYS TO CHANGE YOUR DIET.
THE ROAD TO BEAUTY IS STEEP AND DIFFICULT.
NOOOO!!
YOU CAN'T KEEP FROM EATING, BUT YOU REALLY HAVE TO CALCULATE YOUR CALORIES.
YOU ALSO HAVE TO BALANCE YOUR DIET WITH NATURAL FOODS LIKE AKIRA EATS.
ALSO, YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR BODY TYPE INTO CONSIDERATION.
ONE SCIENTIFIC STUDY CLAIMS THAT IF BOTH PARENTS ARE OVERWEIGHT, THE CHILD STANDS AN 80% CHANCE OF BECOMING OBESE.
HMMM

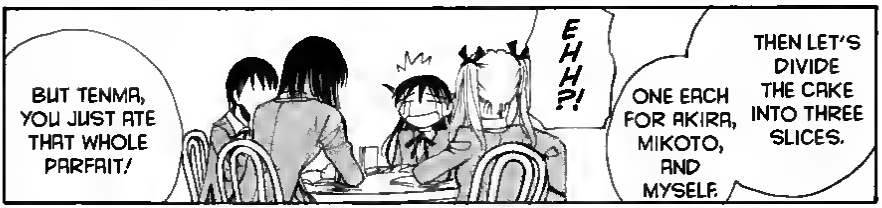
OH, NO! MY FAMILY TENDS TOWARD FAT.
I KNEW IT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, AND I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT IT LATELY.
BOTH OF MY PARENTS ARE THIN.
WE HAVE FINALS TO THINK ABOUT! STUDY! STUDY!!
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TODAY TO TALK ABOUT UNIMPORTANT THINGS!
OKAY, OKAY! LET'S END THIS!
DELICIOUS
MUNCH SLURP
MY FAMILY IS... PRETTY AVER-AGE.
AH!! YOU'RE BLAMING ME?!
MIKO-CHAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP ME?!
WE'RE DOING IT!
SEEP
WEREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING?
AAAAH!!
HOW DID THAT PARFAIT GET THERE?!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE EATING?!

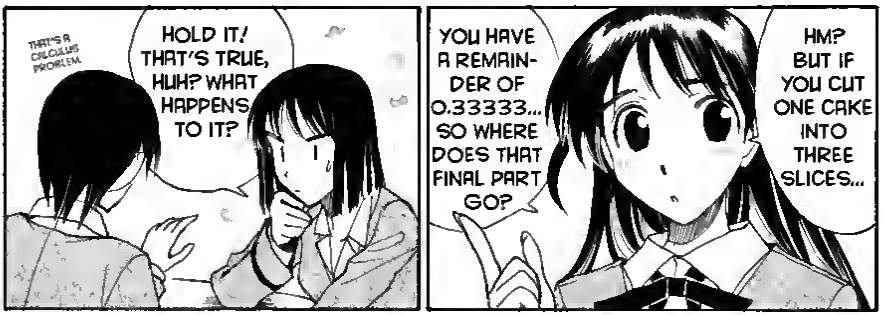
THIS IS BAD! IF THINGS KEEP GOING AS THEY ARE, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MAKE-UP CLASSES AGAIN!
AWW!! ARE WE HAVING FINALS ALREADY?!
YOU MEAN, SHE'S LIKE A GUY?
AKIRA HAS A GREAT BRAIN FOR MATH AND SCIENCE.
OH, YEAH! I WAS THINKING THAT, TOO.
AKIRA-CHAN! WHY DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?!
YOU SPEND ALL OF YOUR TIME WITH US!
IF THOSE ARE INSTINCTS, I'D LIKE TO SEE WHERE YOU WERE BORN!
AH, THOSE ARE SIMPLY MY NATURAL INSTINCTS TAKING OVER.
AND AKIRA-CHAN NEVER LOSES HER WAY!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD WITH FIXING MECHANICAL PROBLEMS, TOO.
BUT SHE CAN ALSO COOK AND HAS GOOD OBSERVATION SKILLS AND OTHER VERY FEMININE TRAITS.
WHAT PART OF YOUR BRAIN IS SUITED FOR SCIENCE?!
I SHOULD HAVE GONE IN FOR SCIENCE!
MY BRAIN IS BETTER SUITED FOR SCIENCE, RIGHT?
I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY I DECIDED TO TAKE HUMANITIES!


NO MATTER HOW MANY LAYERS I BAKE INTO THE CAKE, 0+0 MEANS I STILL CAN'T EAT IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, SAY WE HAVE A CAKE THAT HAS NO THICKNESS. THAT MEANS THAT I CAN'T EAT IT.
NO, IT'S TRUE! I REALLY AM BETTER SUITED TO SCIENCE.


IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO EAT MORE SWEETS?
IN OTHER WORDS, I CAN EAT TONS OF THAT CAKE AND NEVER GAIN WEIGHT!


THAT'S ERI-CHAN!! SHE UNDERSTANDS ME PERFECTLY!!
AND THE THINNER YOU SLICE IT, THE FEWER THE CALORIES.
TRUE. EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS CAKE, RIGHT?


BUT TENMA, YOU JUST ATE THAT WHOLE PARFAIT!
EHH?!
ONE EACH FOR AKIRA, MIKOTO, AND MYSELF.
THEN LET'S DIVIDE THE CAKE INTO THREE SLICES.

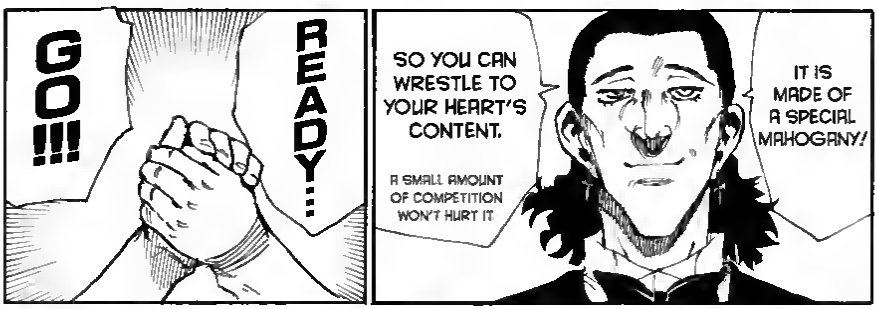

THAT'S A CALCULUS PROBLEM.
HOLD IT! THAT'S TRUE, HUH? WHAT HAPPENS TO IT?
YOU HAVE A REMAINDER OF 0.33333... SO WHERE DOES THAT FINAL PART GO?
HM? BUT IF YOU CUT ONE CAKE INTO THREE SLICES...

THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON FOR IT IS BASKETBALL!
HEY, EVERYBODY LISTEN!!
FOR SOME REASON, I'VE BEEN LOSING WEIGHT RECENTLY.
HM?
LOOK AT THIS! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE SET OF BICEPS?
EH...?
SKRR
SKRRRT
WOULD DARE YOU HAVE THE EFFRONTERY TO SAY THAT IN FRONT OF ME..?

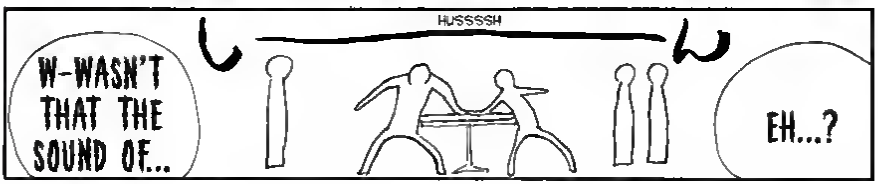
Meanwhile, an Unexpected Grouping of Four Guys.

HEY, WHAT'S THIS FOR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WOULD YOU CARE TO ENGAGE IN AN ARM WRESTLING CONTEST TO DETERMINE WHO SPORTS THE MORE IMPRESSIVE MUSCLES?
AND I, TÔGÔ MASAKAZU, WILL BE YOUR FIRST OPPONENT!
BUT I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE NOW. LET'S GET THIS DONE!
NO, I WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
HAH! YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT MY SPECTACULAR ABILITIES WERE LIMITED TO ACADEMICS ALONE, DID YOU?! NOW COME AT ME!!
UM... TÔGÔ, THAT ISN'T WHAT I WAS...
MUSCLES ONCE INFLAMED MAY NOT BE UNINFLAMED UNTIL THEY HAVE VANQUISHED THEIR ENEMIES!!
MY ARM WRESTLING TALENT IS ONLY SECONDS FROM EXPLODING ONTO THE SCENE!!
YAKUMO-KUN!
OKAY, PLAY YOUR STUPID GAMES, YOU IDIOTS!
YOU GUYS, ARE YOU FINISHED STUDYING FOR THE FINALS?
IT WON'T HELP YOU IF YOU LOSE AS MUCH STANDING AT SCHOOL AS YOU DO BODY FAT.
THAT WAS FUNNY! LAUGH!

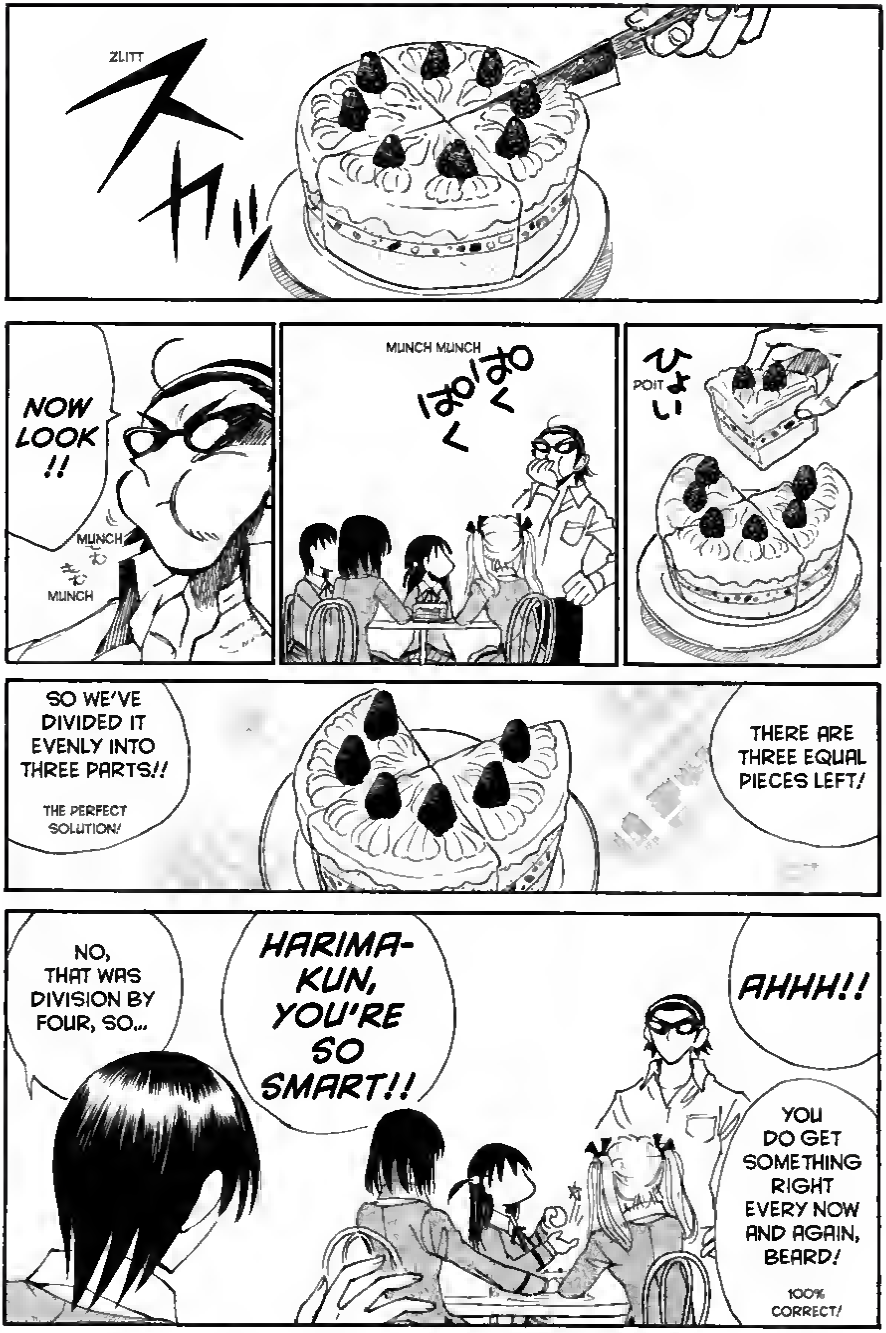
ZAAN
HH!!
THANK YOU FOR WAITING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOUR ARENA IS RIGHT THIS WAY!!
M-MASTER?!


READY...
GO!!!
SO YOU CAN WRESTLE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
A SMALL AMOUNT OF COMPETITION WON'T HURT IT.
IT IS MADE OF A SPECIAL MAHOGANY!

WHAMM
GRIKK
ホゲキ

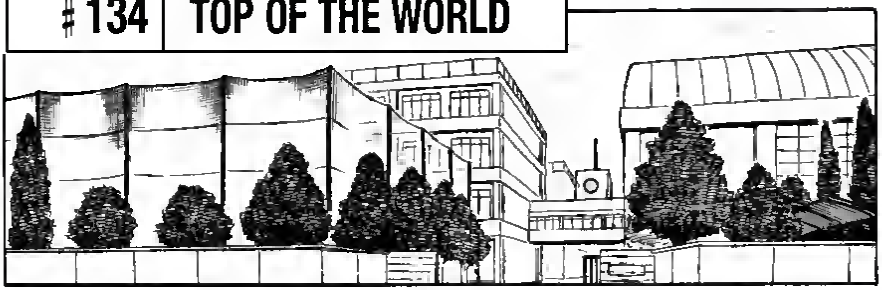

HUSSSSH
W-WASN'T THAT THE SOUND OF...
EH...?

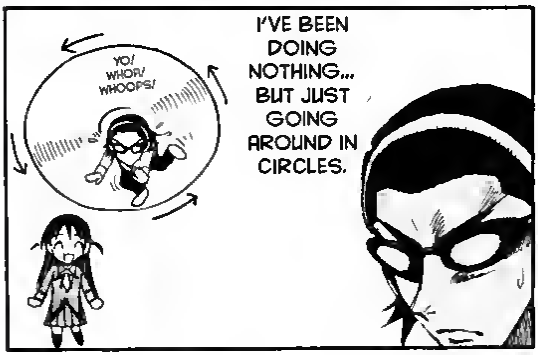
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S BRO-KEN.
IT'S A SPRAIN, RIGHT?! THIS IS JUST A SPRAIN, RIGHT?!
ぺったぺった
FLOP FLOP
STILL, I ONLY CAME HERE TO SEE TENMA-CHAN, SO WHO REALLY CARES WHAT THEY DO.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO IT, YOU IDIOTS!
REGRETTABLE. BUT EVERY COMPETITION REQUIRES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SACRIFICE.
EYAAAN!! MY PRECIOUS ARM... AND RIGHT AT FINALS!!
IF I CAN COME UP WITH THE ANSWER, I CAN SHOW THEM JUST HOW MANLY I AM!!
WHAT'S THIS? THEY PLAN TO DIVIDE A CAKE THREE WAYS?
AH, I SEE YOU ARE STUDYING AWAY AT MATH. THAT'S VERY COMMENDABLE, TENMA-CHAN!
I SEE THE ANSWER!!

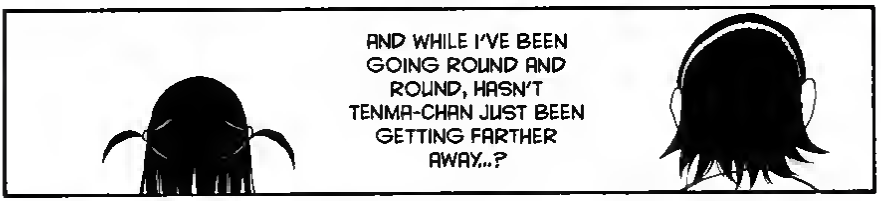

ZLITT
NOW LOOK !!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
おいしい
POIT
ひょい
SO WE'VE DIVIDED IT EVENLY INTO THREE PARTS!!
THE PERFECT SOLUTION!
THERE ARE THREE EQUAL PIECES LEFT!
NO, THAT WAS DIVISION BY FOUR, SO...
HARIMA-KUN, YOU'RE SO SMART!!
AHHH!!
YOU DO GET SOMETHING RIGHT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, BEARD!
100% CORRECT!

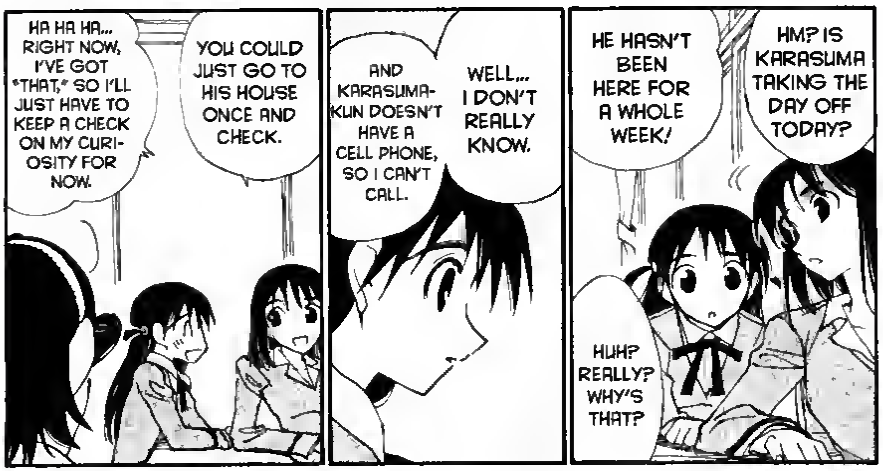
# 133 · · · · · · · · · Fin

# #134 TOP OF THE WORLD









HA HA HA... RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT "THAT," SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP A CHECK ON MY CURI-OSITY FOR NOW.
YOU COULD JUST GO TO HIS HOUSE ONCE AND CHECK.
AND KARASUMA-KUN DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE, SO I CAN'T CALL.
WELL... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
HE HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR A WHOLE WEEK!
HM? IS KARASUMA TAKING THE DAY OFF TODAY?
HUH? REALLY? WHY'S THAT?

WHAT?! THIS IS MY CHANCE!! IT SOUNDS LIKE TENMA-CHAN AND KARASUMA AREN'T WORKING OUT!!
AH!! BY THE WAY...
U-UH... TSUKA—
THIS TIME I'LL GET YOU, TENMA-CHAN!!
THIS IS THE MOMENT THAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SO LONG!!
THE BENTÔ THAT TÔGÔ-KUN MADE WAS FANTASTIC!!
HUH? NO, WHAT IS IT?
HEY, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF PENNE?
DID SHE SAY BENTÔ?!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HAVING LUNCH WITH THAT CREEP, HAVE YOU?!
ARABI...
AND IT'S JUST DELICIOUS IN A THING CALLED ARABIAN NIGHT!
IT'S PASTA IN THE SHAPE OF A PEN.
SIGH
はぁ。

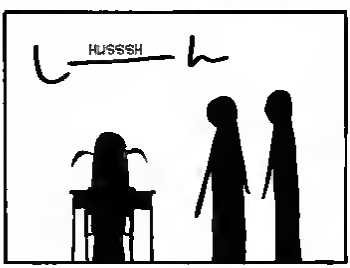
LISTEN! IT'S JUST ITALIAN FOOD. EVERYBODY CAN AFFORD THAT.
AND YOU MEAN ARRABBIATA, RIGHT?
ERI-CHAN, YOU'VE EATEN PENNE, HAVEN'T YOU?
TÔGÔ-KUN IS REALLY RICH, ISN'T HE?!
OH, REALLY?
SO AS I WAS SAYING...
N-NO -
HOW ABOUT YOU, HARIMA-KUN?
DAMMIT!! PASTA? YAKISOBA IS MY KIND OF NOODLE!! PENNE? I CAN USE A G-PEN!!
NORMALLY IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL, BUT... TENMA-CHAN HAS BEEN RECENTLY DUMPED!! TH-THIS ISN'T GOOD!!
THAT SNEAK THIEF! PLAYING ON A GIRL'S WEAKNESSES!!
B-BUT I DON'T LIKE HOW THINGS ARE GOING!! THAT CREEP, TÔGÔ, ALWAYS POPPING UP!!

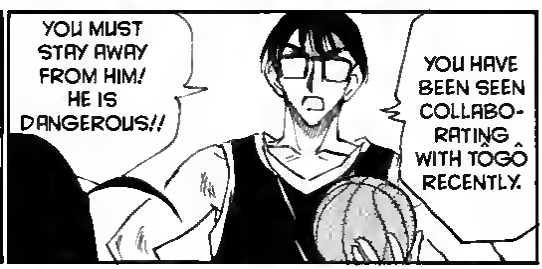
TODAY I'M GOING AGAIN WITH TÔGÔ-KUN'S CLASS TO TRY OUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT.
WHAT? AGAIN? IT'S BEEN PRETTY MUCH AN EVERYDAY THING THESE DAYS.
YEAH. I'LL BE GOING BACK AND FORTH FOR A WHILE, I THINK.
MIKO-CHAN! WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG, TOO?
AND BRING ASÔ-KUN WITH YOU!!
D-DON'T BE STUPID! HE AND I AREN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!!
DAMMIT!! THEY'RE HAVING FUN TALKING ABOUT IT, WHATEVER IT IS!!
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT THIS CREEP OR THE OTHER CREEP?!
I AM NOT!!
ARE YOU STILL HIDING IT?
THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONSE-QUENCE!!
G-GLASSES!!
SHIIK
WE ARE ON THE PRECIPICE OF UNPRECEDENTED DANGER FOR CLASS 2-C!!
WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE!!
THE CURSED HAND OF THE AGGRESSOR, TÔGÔ, IS ENGAGED IN PURLOINING TSUKAMOTO... WE MUST RESCUE HER!!
HEY! FOR ONCE, I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, GLASSES!

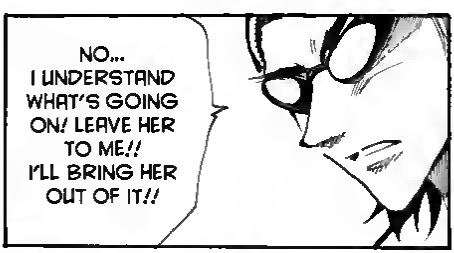
Presently Tenma Is Trying Out Seats in Class 2-D. Just So You Know.

DONNG
DINNG
2-C
DONNG
DINNG

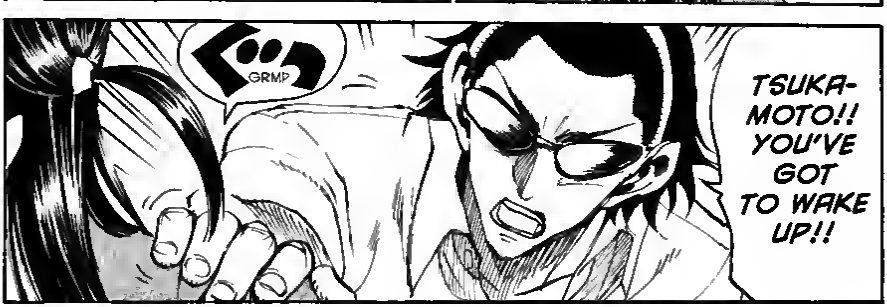
I'LL BACK YOU UP ON THIS ONE!!
SHK
SHK
SHK
TSUKAMOTO-KUN!! TSUKAMOTO-KUN!!


HUSSSH


YOU MUST STAY AWAY FROM HIM! HE IS DANGEROUS!!
YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN COLLABO-RATING WITH TOGO RECENTLY.


NO... I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON! LEAVE HER TO ME!! I'LL BRING HER OUT OF IT!!

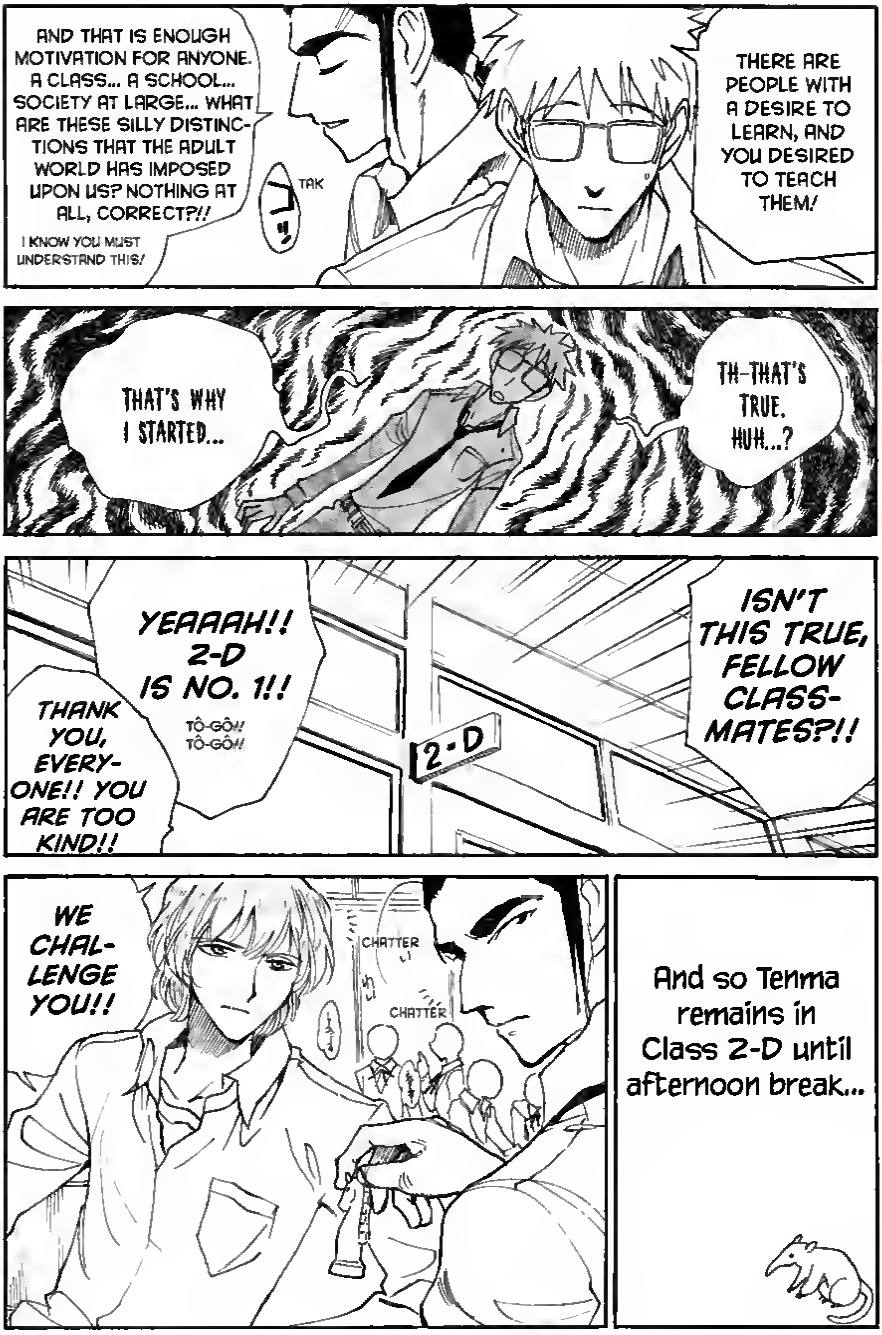
SO YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN SUBORNED, HAVE YOU? BLAST IT!!
HUH? YOU REFUSE TO ANSWER?!


GRMP
TSUKA-MOTO!! YOU'VE GOT TO WAKE UP!!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, HARI-MA?
なっ
POP
YOU KNOW WHO I AM.
I AM LALA...
.....
WHAT'S THIS? YOU'RE...
I CANNOT EAT ANOTHER BITE...
ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ
.....
STARTING OVER FROM THE BEGINNING WON'T HELP!
WHAT D'YA WANT, HARIMA-KUN?!!

YOU'RE THE STRANGE ONE!! GO BACK TO YOUR CLASS!!
HM? I AM TENMA! YOU ARE SO STRANGE, HARIMA-KUN!!
UM... YOU'RE MIXING UP YOUR CHARACTERS, LALA.
むくっ GRR
AH! YOU KNOW, ICHIJÔ WON A GOLD MEDAL!
HMPH! WHERE IS SHE?
AH! TSUKAMOTO, WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
さっ SHK
DAMMIT!! THAT MEANS THAT TENMA IS ALREADY IN CLASS 2-D!!
OKAY, LET'S TRANSLATE THE NEXT SENTENCE. LALA GONZALES, WOULD YOU DO IT FOR US?
YEAH... IT'S ALWAYS SO EASY TO TEACH CLASS 2-D!
カーン DINNG
キーン DINNG
2-D
コーン DONNG
コーン DONNG
UHO!!

SQEEK
SQEEK
.....
.....
UM, TSUKAMOTO... WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
I AM LALA-CHAN!!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, TANI-SENSEI...
BESIDES, WHAT'S WITH CALLING YOURSELF "-CHAN"?
SKRRT
NO... YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOUR CLASS, TSUKA-MOTO...
THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOUR MOTIVA-TION.
TAK
WAS IT THE MONEY? OR THE GLORY?
TAK
I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU DECIDED TO BECOME A TEACHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

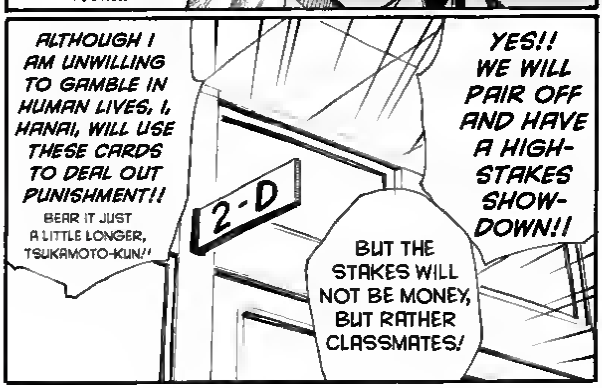

AND THAT IS ENOUGH MOTIVATION FOR ANYONE. A CLASS... A SCHOOL... SOCIETY AT LARGE... WHAT ARE THESE SILLY DISTINCTIONS THAT THE ADULT WORLD HAS IMPOSED UPON US? NOTHING AT ALL, CORRECT?!!
I KNOW YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THIS!
TAK
THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH A DESIRE TO LEARN, AND YOU DESIRED TO TEACH THEM!
THAT'S WHY I STARTED...
TH-THAT'S TRUE. HUH...?
YEAAAH!! 2-D IS NO. 1!!
TÔ-GÔ!! TÔ-GÔ!!
THANK YOU, EVERY-ONE!! YOU ARE TOO KIND!!
2-D
ISN'T THIS TRUE, FELLOW CLASS-MATES?!!
WE CHAL-LENGE YOU!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
And so Tenma remains in Class 2-D until afternoon break...

SHKK
YOU WILL RETURN TSUKAMOTO TO OUR CLASS IMMEDIATELY!!

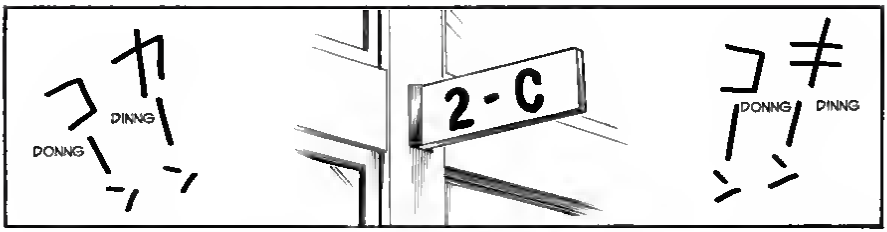
YOU SEEM NOT TO WANT TO TALK, BUT A FIGHT WILL ONLY DISTURB OUR CLASS-MATES.
WELL, WELL! IT LOOKS AS IF THE HYENAS ARE CIRCLING.
THE YOUNG LADY IS HERE OF HER OWN FREE WILL.

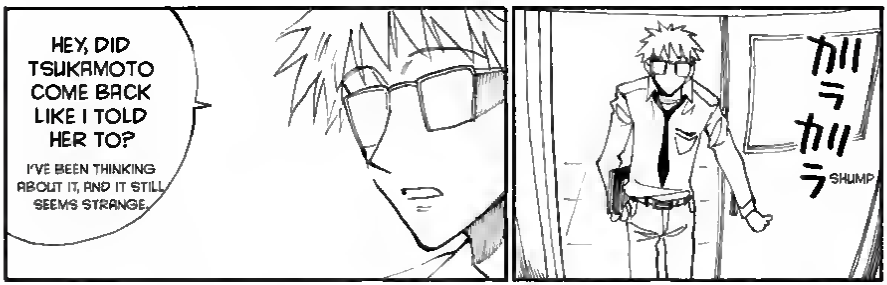
I ACCEPT! OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROTECT OUR CLASS IS NO LESS THAN YOURS!!

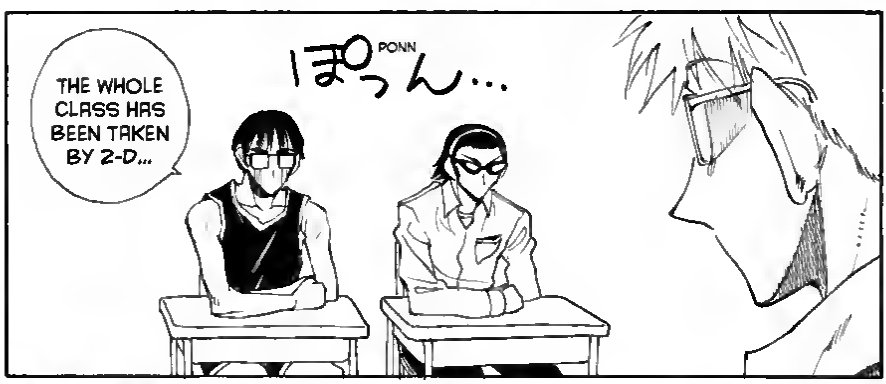
HOW ABOUT WE CHAL-LENGE USING THESE!
KSHT

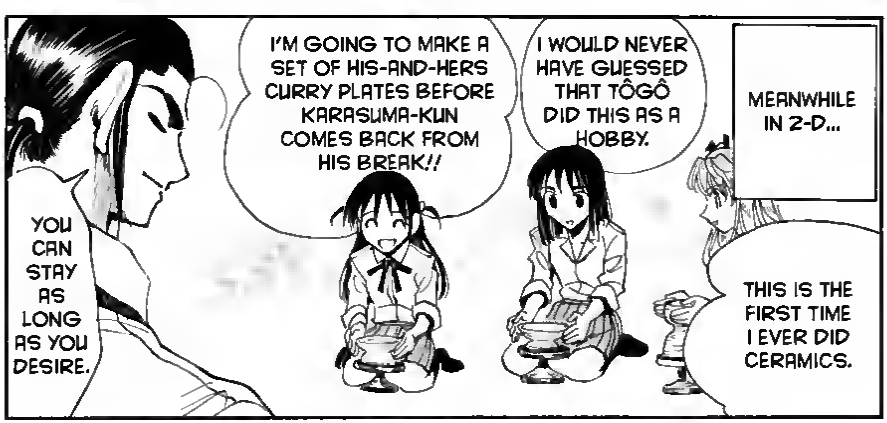

ALTHOUGH I AM UNWILLING TO GAMBLE IN HUMAN LIVES, I, HANAI, WILL USE THESE CARDS TO DEAL OUT PUNISHMENT!!
BEAR IT JUST A LITTLE LONGER, TSUKAMOTO-KUN!!
2-D
YES!! WE WILL PAIR OFF AND HAVE A HIGH-STAKES SHOW-DOWN!!
BUT THE STAKES WILL NOT BE MONEY, BUT RATHER CLASSMATES!

YOU IDIOT!! ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS THROW DOWN A TWO!!
HUH? YOU HAD A JOKER, YOU JERK?!
AH, ONE HATES TO SEE SUCH DISCORD AMONG COMRADES.
AAAAHH!! WE LOST!!
FAP
10+!!
MY WIN!!
KH!! W-WELL, WE...
BUT SINCE YOU LOST, WHAT IS IT YOU'LL GIVE UP? WE WON'T LET YOU GO FOR NOTHING.
WE'LL BET YOUR TWO AGAINST SUÔ AND TAKANO-KUN!! THAT'S OUR WAGER!!
NO!! WE CANNOT LEAVE UNTIL WE HAVE BOTH OF THEM BACK!!
THAT'S SOME SERIOUS COURAGE YOU'RE SHOWING, GLASSES!
COUNT ME IN!!
OH! YOU MEAN SAWACHIKA-SAN?
HEY! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO SAY THAT?!
WE'LL GIVE YOU OUR BLONDE GIRL!! YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT DEAL, RIGHT?!
WE ARE AGREED, YOU MAY GO.
WE'LL BE FINE!! THE WIND IS AT OUR BACKS!!
NOW, ONE MORE HAND!!
2-D
SHUDDER
?!
PHEW! THAT'S A PLOT TWIST TO GET ME FIRED UP!


DONNG
DING
2-C
DONNG
DING

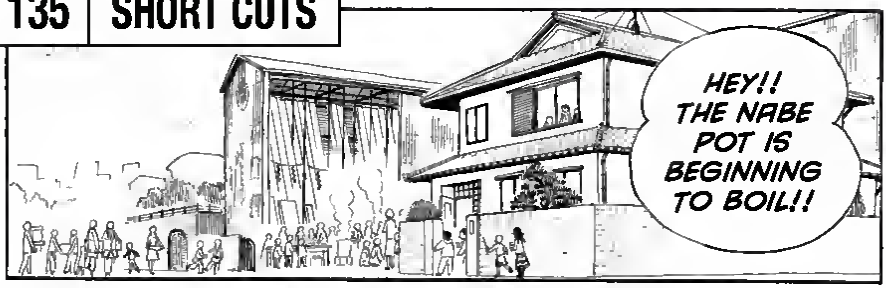

HEY, DID TSUKAMOTO COME BACK LIKE I TOLD HER TO?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, AND IT STILL SEEMS STRANGE.
SHUMP

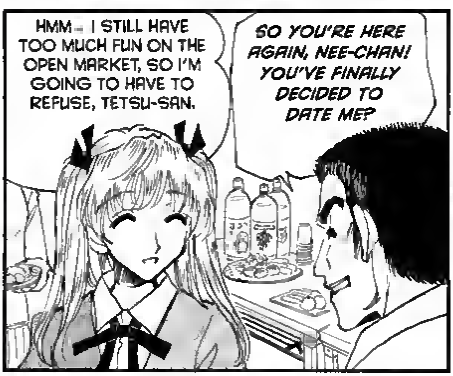

THE WHOLE CLASS HAS BEEN TAKEN BY 2-D...
PONN

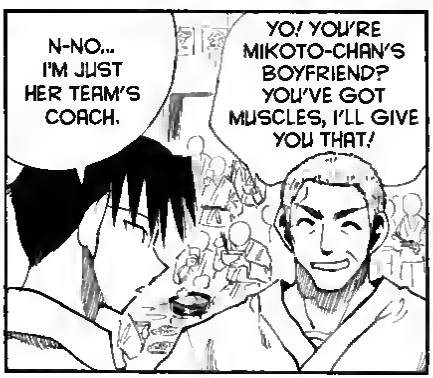

YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU DESIRE.
I'M GOING TO MAKE A SET OF HIS-AND-HERS CURRY PLATES BEFORE KARASUMA-KUN COMES BACK FROM HIS BREAK!!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED THAT TÔGÔ DID THIS AS A HOBBY.
MEANWHILE IN 2-D...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER DID CERAMICS.

# 134 · · · · · · · · · Fin

# #135 SHORT CUTS




HMM... I STILL HAVE TOO MUCH FUN ON THE OPEN MARKET, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO REFUSE, TETSU-SAN.
SO YOU'RE HERE AGAIN, NEE-CHAN! YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO DATE ME?

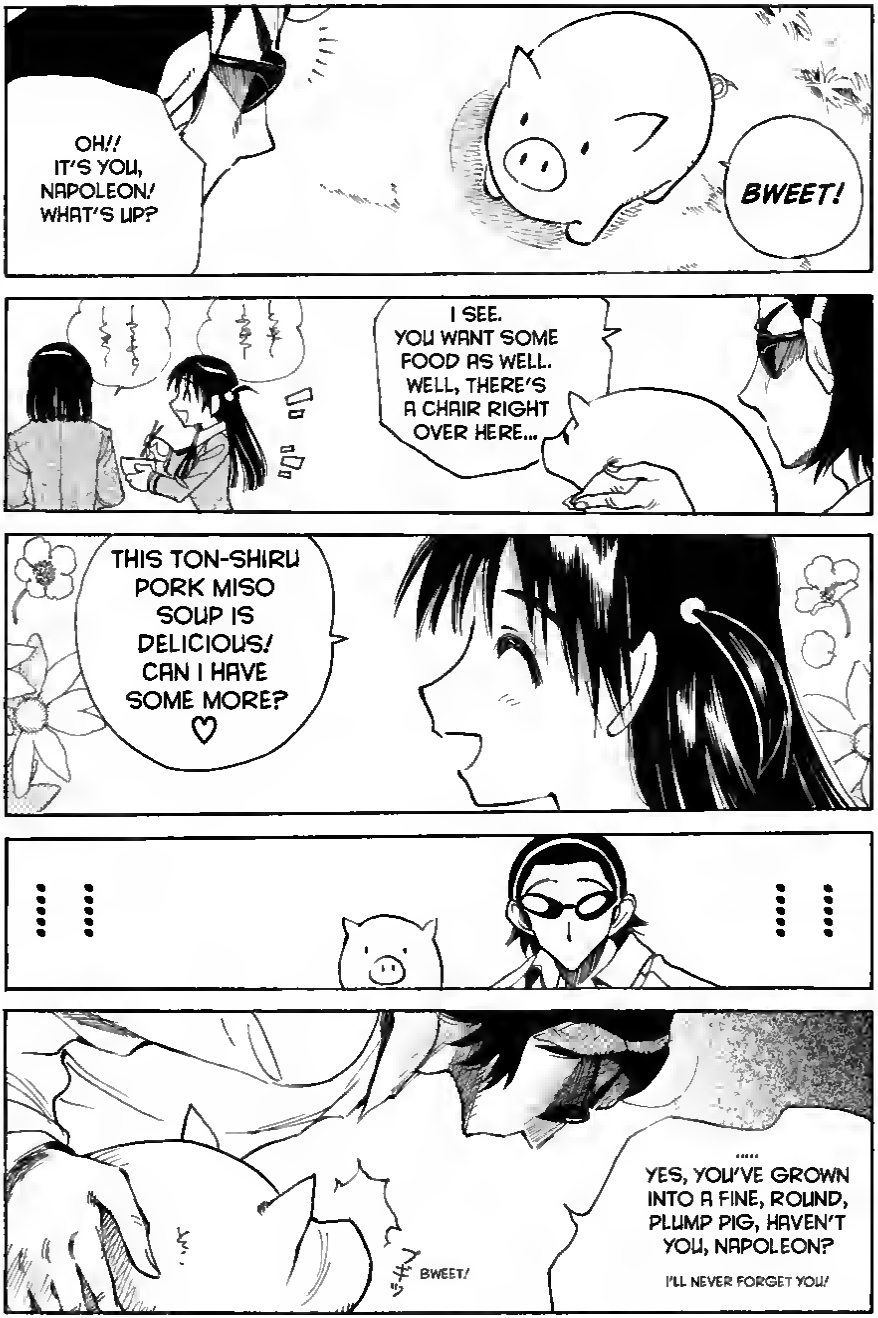


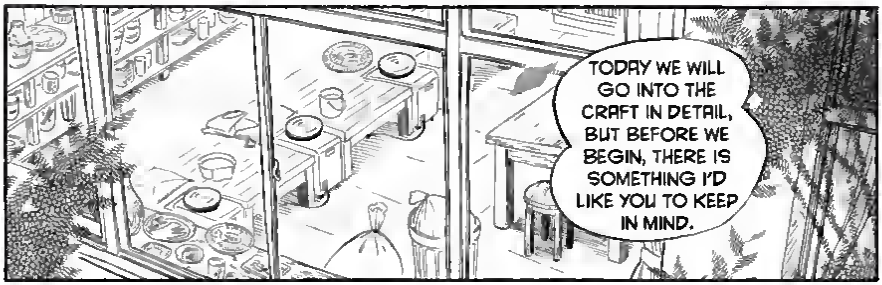
Y-YES. BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY? US BARGING IN LIKE THIS?
YAKUMO, YOU SAY THIS IS YOUR FIRST IMONIKAI PARTY AT SUÔ'S?
HEY, MIKO-CHAN! IS THAT GUY YOUR BOYFRIEND?
MY COMPLIMENTS!
NO, HE ISN'T! YOU SHOULD BE GOSSIPING LESS AND EATING MORE!!
IF YOU WANT MEAT, I'VE GOT IT HERE!! TSUKAMOTO!! THIS IS MEANT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU... *AHEM* ...FOR EVERYONE TO EAT!!
SHF
WH-WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SOONER...?
YOU'RE FINE!! ANYBODY CAN JOIN IN AS LONG AS THEY BRING SOME FOOD TO THE PARTY!!
OKOK!
YAKUMO, WHERE'S THE MEAT?
ZUNNNN
MEANWHILE, IN THE ANNEX BUILDING...
YEAH, THERE'S ICHI-SAN, BUT WHY AM I HERE WITH LALA, THE WOMAN WHO DESTROYED MY JORDANS ?!
WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
MIKO-CHIN ISN'T ANYWHERE TO BE SEEN!!

HEH! ARE YOU STILL HARPING ON THAT? IT SEEMED LIKE AN ACCIDENT TO ME.
AND THIS GUY WHO BROKE MY ARM!!
I-IMADORI-SAN, IF YOU COMPLAIN TOO LOUDLY, YOU COULD GET HURT...
THERE'S ONLY ONE TYPE OF COOKING FOR A TRUE MAN!! I BROUGHT BAKKUN, MADE WITH THE HOTTEST PEPPERS YOU CAN GET, HABAÑERO CHILIES!!
SHP
S-SO, WHAT FOOD DID EVERYBODY BRING TO THE PARTY?
I BROUGHT VEGETABLES AND ..
AND I... BROUGHT UDON NOODLES !!
I BROUGHT BIG-WAS BURGERS THAT WERE LEFT OVER FROM WORK.
HM? IS THAT THE TRUTH? I AM SORRY.
LALA-SAN, YOU CAN'T PUT HAMBURGERS INTO A NABE! AH!! NOT FRENCH FRIES, EITHER!!
SST
THAT I'VE GOT MY JORDANS, SHOE-LACES!!
NOBODY NOTICED!!
CHATTER CHATTER
わい
わい
SHF

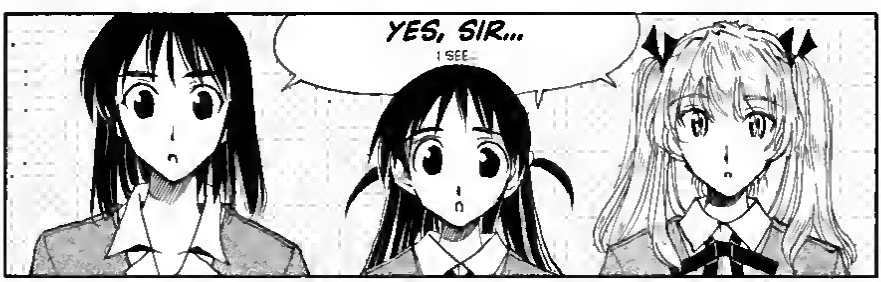
ポチャ
PCHAP
HA HA HA!! THEY'LL TASTE THE VENGEANCE OF JORDANS!!
THE LONG, THIN VENGEANCE!!
SST
THEN I'LL JUST SWITCH MY BOWL FOR LALA'S!
HUHP IT'S HARD TO PICK IT UP ONE-HANDED.
I DEEPLY APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ARM. HERE. LET ME HELP YOU EAT.
IT MUST BE INCONVENIENT WITH THE USE OF ONLY ONE ARM
IT'S TOO BITTER...
WHAT'S WRONG? WAS IT TOO HOT?

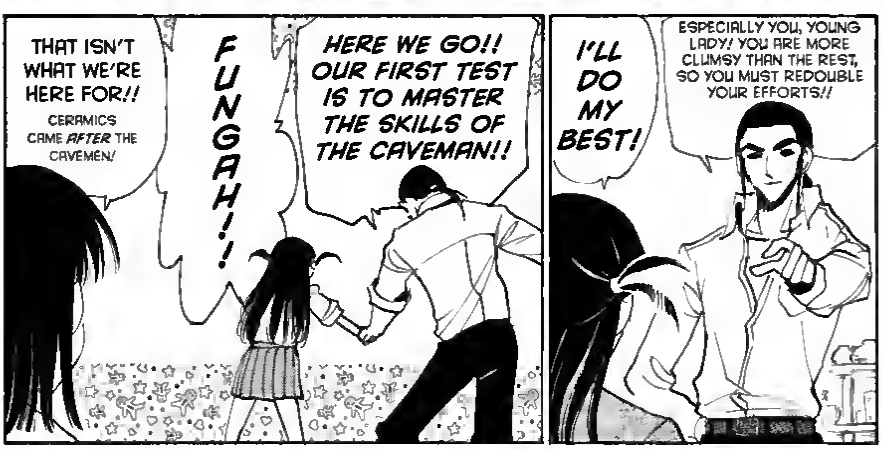
## Grow Big and Strong!


OH!! IT'S YOU, NAPOLEON! WHAT'S UP?
BWEET!
I SEE. YOU WANT SOME FOOD AS WELL. WELL, THERE'S A CHAIR RIGHT OVER HERE...
THIS TON-SHIRU PORK MISO SOUP IS DELICIOUS! CAN I HAVE SOME MORE? ♡
.....
.....
.....
YES, YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE, ROUND, PLUMP PIG, HAVEN'T YOU, NAPOLEON?
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
BWEET!

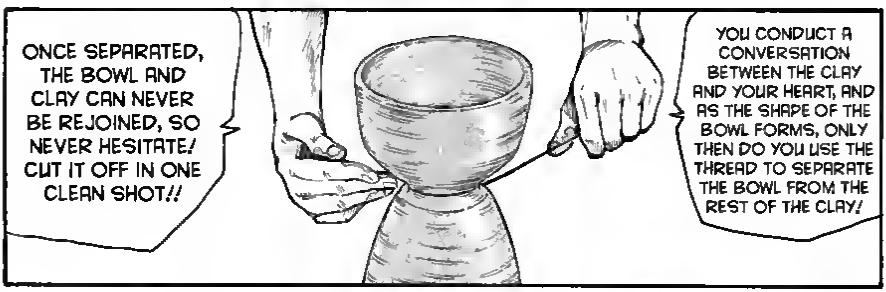

TODAY WE WILL GO INTO THE CRAFT IN DETAIL, BUT BEFORE WE BEGIN, THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP IN MIND.

AND THE VERY CLAY WE USE FOR CERAMICS IS A PART OF HISTORY ITSELF, TRODDEN ON BY OUR ANCESTORS. REMEMBER THAT, AND TREAT EACH MOMENT WITH RESPECT AND CARE.
CERAMICS HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE JAPANESE SOUL HANDED DOWN SINCE THE JÔMON PERIOD.

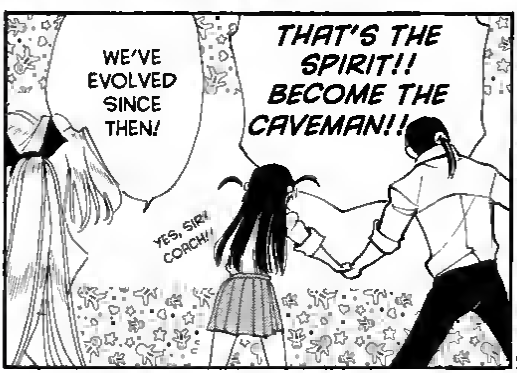

YES, SIR...
I SEE...


THAT ISN'T WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR!!
CERAMICS CAME *AFTER* THE CAVEMEN!
FUNGAH!!
HERE WE GO!! OUR FIRST TEST IS TO MASTER THE SKILLS OF THE CAVEMAN!!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
ESPECIALLY YOU, YOUNG LADY! YOU ARE MORE CLUMSY THAN THE REST, SO YOU MUST REDOUBLE YOUR EFFORTS!!

THINK OF THE CLAY REVOLVING ON THE WHEEL AS A LIVING THING! LISTEN TO WHAT THE FLOW AND LINES HAVE TO SAY TO YOU!
FIRST, WHEN YOU MAKE A BOWL ON THE POTTERY WHEEL, YOU KEEP THE IMAGE YOU WANT FIRMLY IN MIND.


ONCE SEPARATED, THE BOWL AND CLAY CAN NEVER BE REJOINED, SO NEVER HESITATE! CUT IT OFF IN ONE CLEAN SHOT!!
YOU CONDUCT A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CLAY AND YOUR HEART, AND AS THE SHAPE OF THE BOWL FORMS, ONLY THEN DO YOU USE THE THREAD TO SEPARATE THE BOWL FROM THE REST OF THE CLAY!

WOW! THAT'S WON-DERFUL!!
YES... THIS IS ROUGHLY WHAT WE'RE AIMING FOR. NOW GIVE IT A TRY!


WE'VE EVOLVED SINCE THEN!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!! BECOME THE CAVEMAN!!
YES, SIR! COACH!

ALL RIGHT!! I'LL BECOME ONE WITH THE CLAY AND FORM A CURRY BOWL OF MY OWN!!

ROUND AND ROUND IT GOES
HM... IS THIS ABOUT RIGHT?
I'D SAY IT'S FINISHED
HUH? MAYBE THAT RED-CLAY PIECE OVER THERE IS WHAT HE MEANS...
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT JÔMON POTTERY IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE...
DAMMIT!! THAT TEACHER, ORDERING ME TO GET HIS JÔMON POTTERY PIECES LIKE HE'S IN CHARGE!!
SHUMP
カリっ!!
I GUESS I SHOULD REPLACE THIS DISPLAY PIECE WITH ONE OF THE LESSER ATTEMPTS AROUND HERE.
NO ONE CAN SCORN THOSE JÔMON GENIUSES!
WHOAAA!! I-IT'S BEAUTIFUL!! ON THE FACE OF IT, IT LOOKS LIKE A LUMP OF CRUMBLING CLAY, BUT WITHIN I CAN SEE THE WARM HEART AND PURE SPIRIT OF THE ONE WHO CRAFTED IT!! THIS MUST BE THE ONE!!
WOW... MY BOWL HAS EVOLVED !!

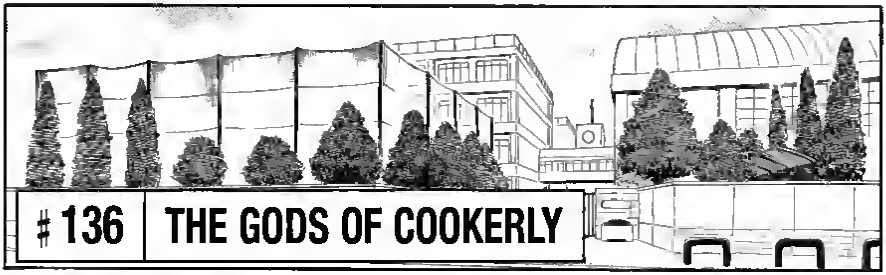
IS IT MY DESIGN SENSE? SOMETHING LACKING IN MY IMAGINATION? I DON'T GET IT...
AWW . . . WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE GONE WRONG?!
GWAAA
ぐちゃっ
ANOTHER FAILURE...
GRR!!
YOU'RE REALLY BAD AT THIS, AREN'T YOU?
OH, YOURS FELL APART AGAIN?
YOU'RE WRONG! THIS PIECE IS INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT MASTERS OF THE CERAMIC ART!!
SEE?
HUH...?
YOU AREN'T HOLDING ANY-THING.
HUH? CAN'T YOU SEE THE FINE WORKING ON THIS?!
.....
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN, TRYING TO PROP HERSELF UP WITH AN OBVIOUS LIE.

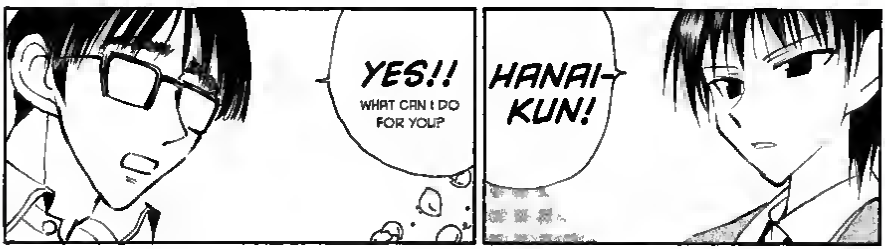
EHH?!
ALL RIGHT, THEN LET'S SEE YOU EAT OFF THAT PLATE RIGHT NOW!!
ALL RIGHT!! JUST WATCH THIS, ERI-CHAN!!
UM... UM...
SEE, I THOUGHT SO! YOU CAN'T DO IT!
THEN I TAKE MY INVISIBLE SPOON...
SLMP
FIRST, I LADLE OUT THE INVISIBLE CURRY...
SHHT
NO, UH... TENMA... OKAY, YOU WIN!
WHEN IS THIS GOING TO END?
MUNCH
MUNCH
COULD YOU GET ME A GLASS OF INVISIBLE WATER?
MM! THAT'S SO GOOD!!

HRRN!! THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING! AM I JUST NO GOOD?!
SHIVER SHIVER
GLOOMP
NO!! I MUSTN'T GIVE UP NOW!! I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE!! NOT JUST THINK IT, FEEL IT!!
HALF CRYING.
A VOICE...?
WHAT?
OH, THANK YOU, KARASUMA-KUN...
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HAVING SUCCESS, TSUKAMOTO-SAN? LET ME HELP.
TELL ME SOMETHING, KARASUMA-KUN. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO ADD?
B-BUT...
YOU MEAN THAT?!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!!
EH...?

ONE SOFA. ALL FINISHED!!
HUH? THE NEXT THING YOU WANT IS THIS?
YEAH... YEAH... I CAN SEE HOW YOU MIGHT NEED IT.
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM YOU, KARASUMA-KUN!
BUT... IS THIS WHAT I REALLY NEEDED?
.....
BUT IF YOU SAY I SHOULD, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY MY HARDEST!
YOU'RE KIDDING!! AREN'T WE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES?
WE SHOULD BE GETTING HOME...
カラ… SHUMP
NEE-SAN, IT'S 9 P.M. ALREADY...
NOW, KARASUMA-KUN! SUPPER'S READY! EAT UP!

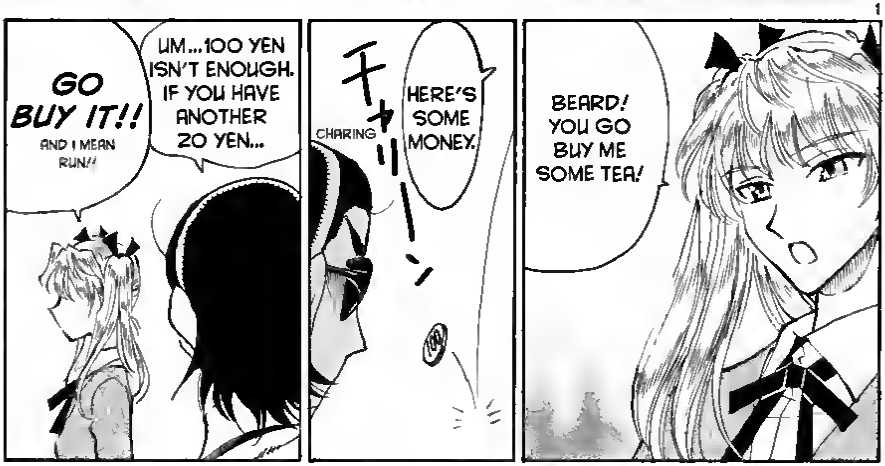
# 135 · · · · · · · · · Fin


#136
THE GODS OF COOKERLY


YES!!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
HANAI-KUN!

YES, M'LADY!! IT WILL BE AS YOU WISH, TAKANO-SAMA!!
I'M THIRSTY. GO BUY ME SOME JUICE.
POING
KARRAG

1

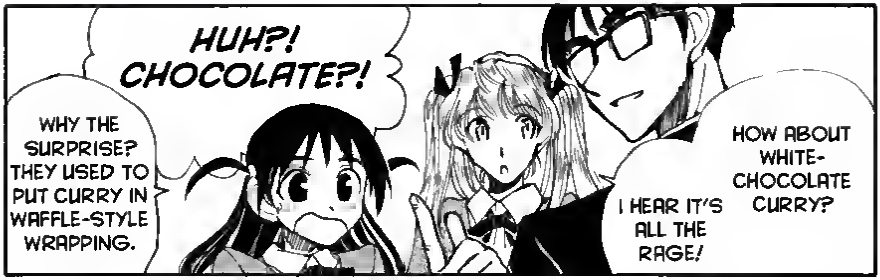

GO BUY IT!!
AND I MEAN RUN!!
UM...100 YEN ISN'T ENOUGH. IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER 20 YEN...
CHARING
HERE'S SOME MONEY.
BEARD! YOU GO BUY ME SOME TEA!

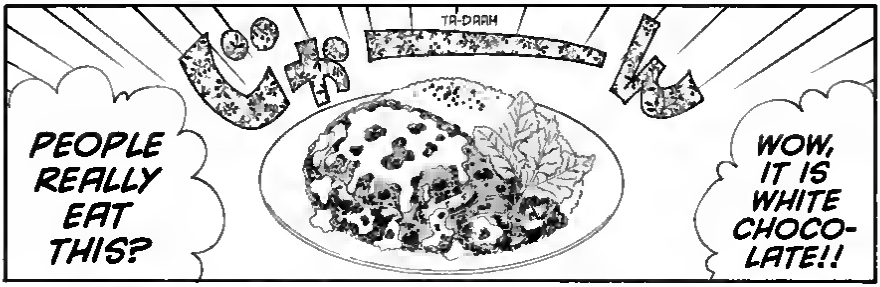
I'VE BOUGHT TEA FOR YOU!
Y-YES, MISS...
DAMMIT!! TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME!!
YOU TOOK SO LONG COMING BACK THAT I CHANGED MY MIND.
YOU LITTLE... GETTING CARRIED AWAY BECAUSE I'M NOT PUTTING UP A FIGHT!
YOU'RE LATE! AND THIS ISN'T WHAT I ASKED FOR!! GO BUY ME JUICE!
GLARE
PLEASE FORGIVE US, MISS!!
IT WAS ALL OUR FAULT!!
AM I HEARING COMPLAINTS FROM THE TWO WHO GAMBLED US AWAY WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION ?!

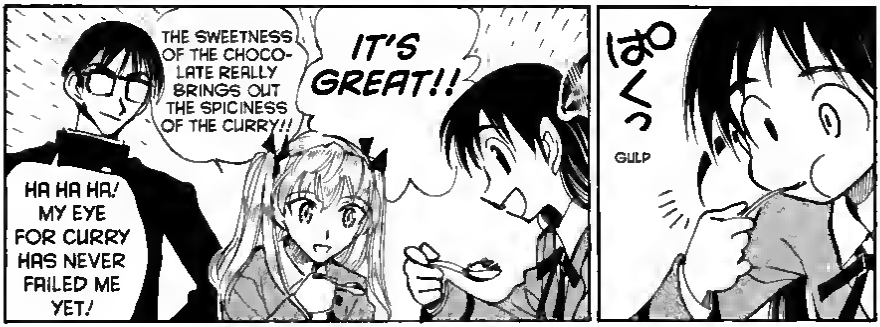
HUSSSH
DMP
ROLLL
ROLL
HUH...?
HEY!! COULD YOU THROW OUR BALL BACK TO US, PLEASE?
YOUNG LADIES OVER THERE...
WHAMM
GRAK !!
WE DON'T WANT THE HELP OF SOME STUCK-UP..
JUST IGNORE THEM, GLASSES!
SOME OF THE BLAME DOES REST WITH US.
BUT EVEN IF WE APOLOGIZE, THEY AREN'T LIKELY TO FORGIVE US...
YOU'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A GOOD PLAN, GLASSES!
I DON'T LIKE THIS!! WE COULD END UP DEAD AT THIS RATE!!
HEY!! THAT ISN'T EVEN FUNNY!!
HUSSH
KYUU
KYUU

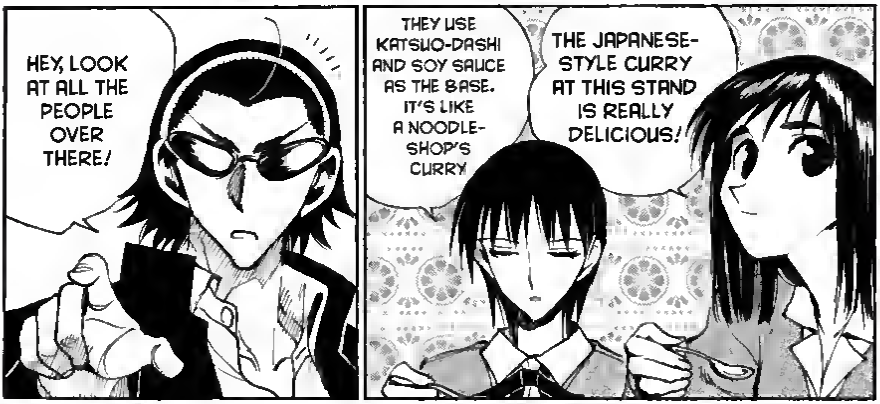
EHH? WHAT'S GOING ON, HANAI-KUN?
WE'LL GET YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT! HOW ABOUT IT?
NOW, JUST LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!!
HMMM...
TSK!
I MEAN, WE'RE ALWAYS IMPOSING ON YOUR GENEROSITY.
WE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD SHOW OUR APPRECIATION ONCE IN A WHILE.
LET'S ALL GO TO CURRY STADIUM TOGETHER!!
THEN I WANT SOME CURRY!!
BUT WHAT ABOUT STUDYING FOR THE TEST?
ALL RIGHT!! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO THERE!!
URK! A-AKIRA-CHAN, DON'T WORRY!! I'LL START STUDYING FOR REAL TOMORROW!
THEN LET'S ALL GO AFTER SCHOOL.
TSUKAMOTO, YOU MAY HAVE JUST THE THING!
CURRY? THAT MAKES SENSE.

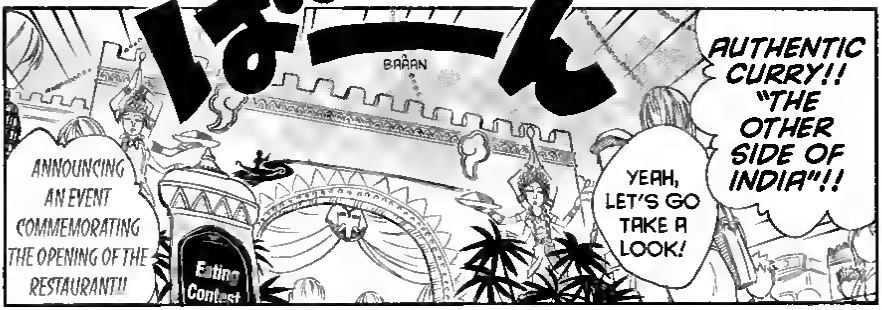
AND THAT SAME DAY AFTER SCHOOL...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE GONE ANY DISTANCE TOGETHER AS A GROUP!!
HEY! THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO CLEAR OUR NAMES!! HELP OUT A LITTLE!
GEEZ! WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
THIS IS SO LAME!
WELCOME TO CURRY STADIUM.
AMAZING!! LOOK HOW LAVISH!! THIS IS SO EXCITING!!
THERE!! I CAN SEE IT NOW!!
WHEE!
わい
WHEE!
わい
YEAAH!! THERE ARE SO MANY CURRY STANDS!! WHICH DO WE TRY FIRST?


HUH?! CHOCOLATE?!
WHY THE SURPRISE? THEY USED TO PUT CURRY IN WAFFLE-STYLE WRAPPING.
I HEAR IT'S ALL THE RAGE!
HOW ABOUT WHITE-CHOCOLATE CURRY?

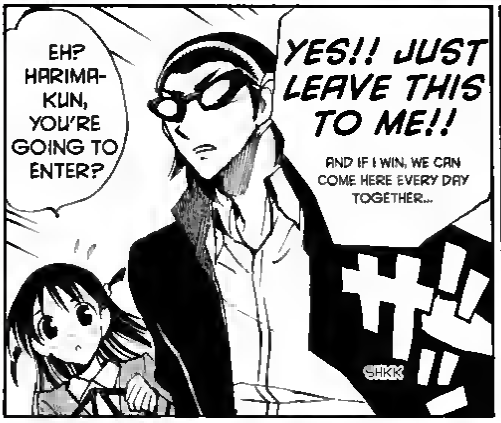

TA-DAAH
PEOPLE REALLY EAT THIS?
WOW, IT IS WHITE CHOCO-LATE!!


THE SWEETNESS OF THE CHOCO-LATE REALLY BRINGS OUT THE SPICINESS OF THE CURRY!!
IT'S GREAT!!
HA HA HA! MY EYE FOR CURRY HAS NEVER FAILED ME YET!
ぁぐっ
GULP


HEY, LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE OVER THERE!
THEY USE KATSUO-DASHI AND SOY SAUCE AS THE BASE. IT'S LIKE A NOODLE-SHOP'S CURRY.
THE JAPANESE-STYLE CURRY AT THIS STAND IS REALLY DELICIOUS!

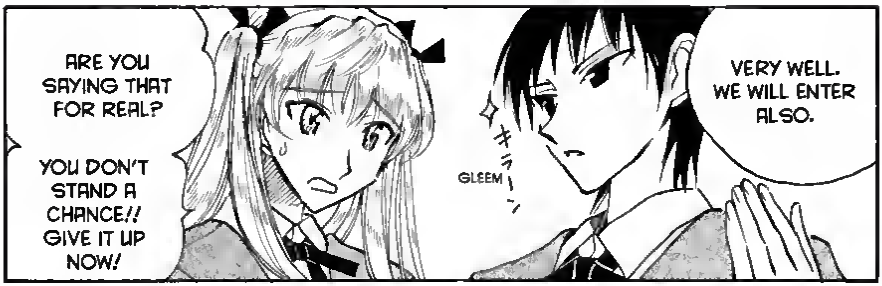

ばーん
BAAAN
ANNOUNCING AN EVENT COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE RESTAURANT!!
Eating Contest
YEAH, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK!
AUTHENTIC CURRY!! "THE OTHER SIDE OF INDIA"!!

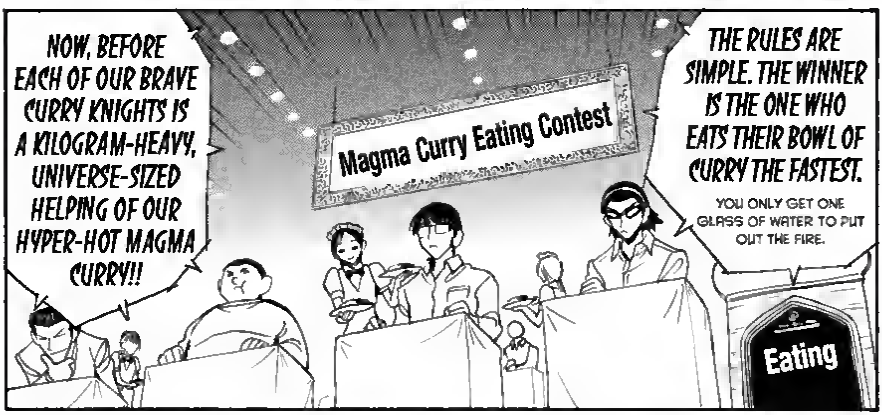
THAT'S THE DISH IN OUR SPEED-EATING CONTEST!! NOW ACCEPTING WALK-UP ENTRIES!!
A UNIVERSE-SIZED HELPING OF OUR HYPER-HOT MAGMA CURRY!!

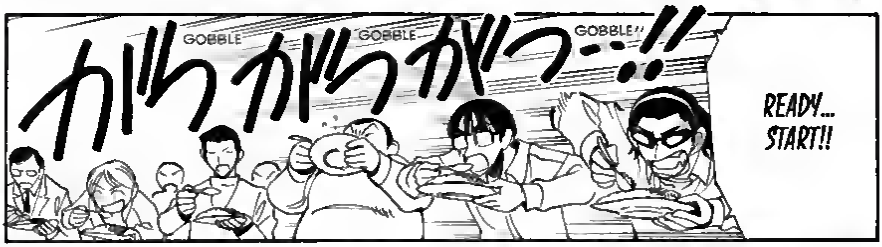

EH? HARIMA-KUN, YOU'RE GOING TO ENTER?
YES!! JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME!!
AND IF I WIN, WE CAN COME HERE EVERY DAY TOGETHER...
SHKK

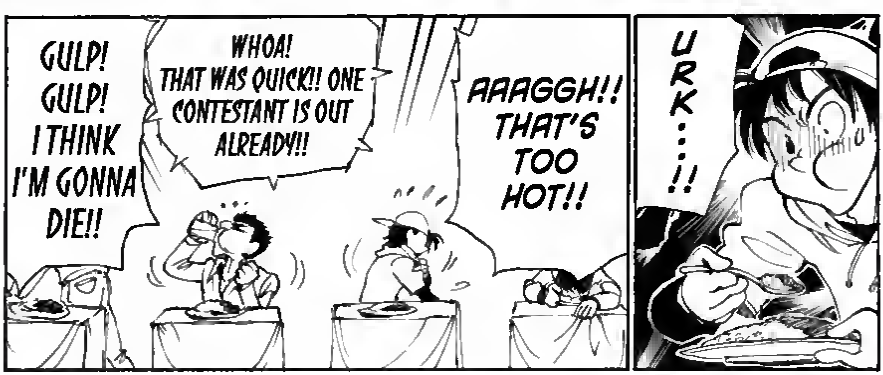
THAT'S COOL! THE WINNER GETS A FREE PASS TO COME HERE FOR A WHOLE YEAR!!

Y-YOU'RE SERIOUS...?!
A-ALL RIGHT, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING THAT GOOD WITH HOT FOODS...
THIS IS A CHANCE TO REGAIN MY GOOD NAME!!
SUÔ, YOU'LL BE MY SECOND!!

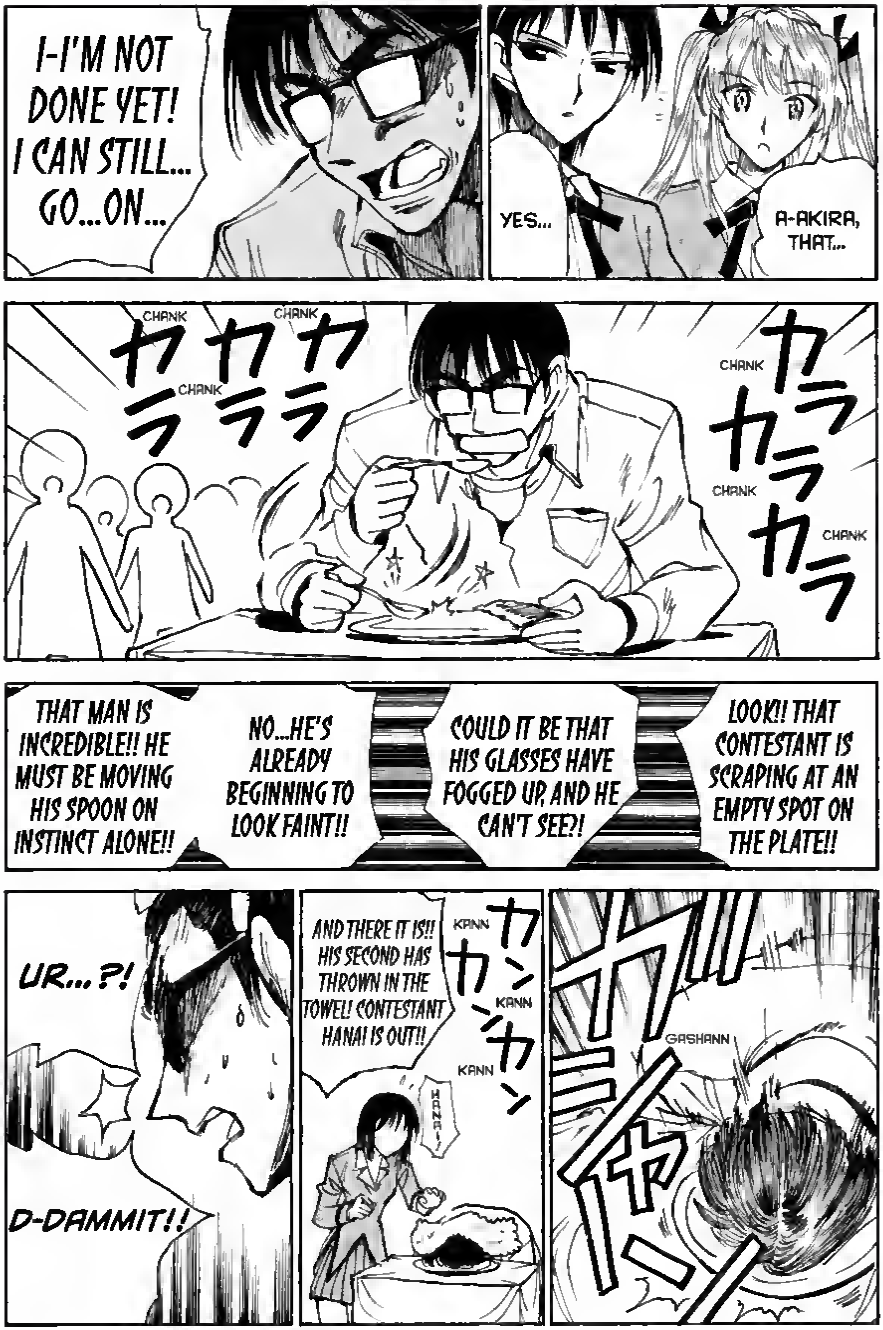

ARE YOU SAYING THAT FOR REAL?
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!! GIVE IT UP NOW!
GLEEM
VERY WELL. WE WILL ENTER ALSO.

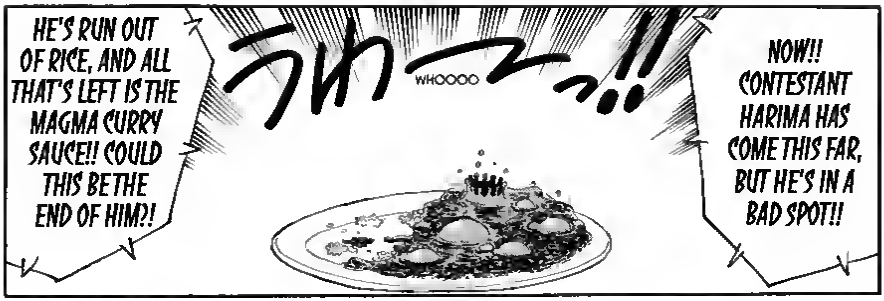

NOW, BEFORE EACH OF OUR BRAVE CURRY KNIGHTS IS A KILOGRAM-HEAVY, UNIVERSE-SIZED HELPING OF OUR HYPER-HOT MAGMA CURRY!!
Magma Curry Eating Contest
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE. THE WINNER IS THE ONE WHO EATS THEIR BOWL OF CURRY THE FASTEST.
YOU ONLY GET ONE GLASS OF WATER TO PUT OUT THE FIRE.
Eating

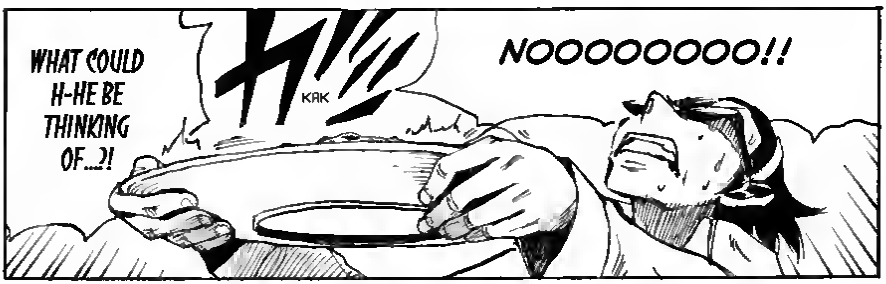

GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE!!
READY... START!!

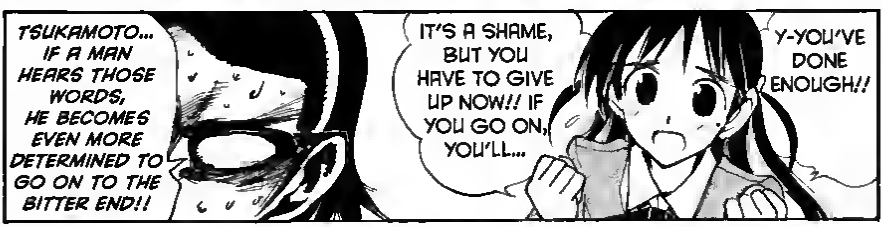

GULP! GULP! I THINK I'M GONNA DIE!!
WHOA! THAT WAS QUICK!! ONE CONTESTANT IS OUT ALREADY!!!
AAAGGH!! THAT'S TOO HOT!!
URK...!!

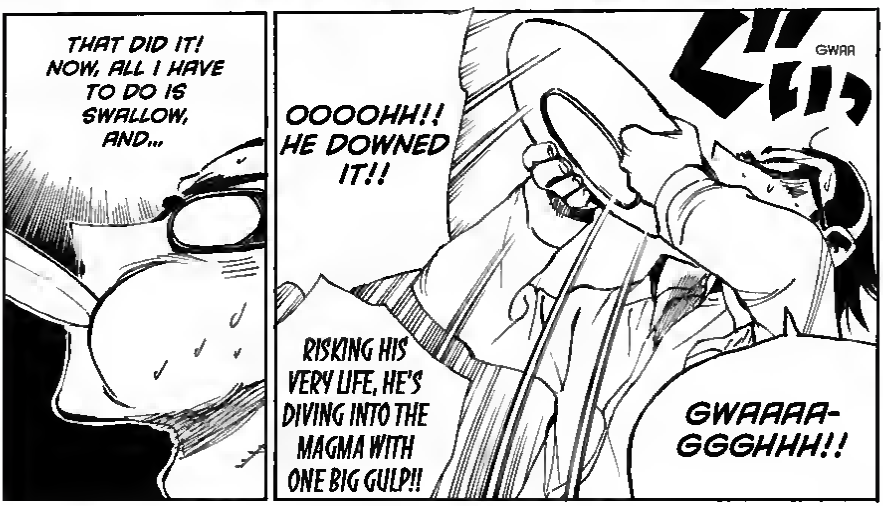
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
LOOK AT THAT!! WALK-IN ENTRANTS HARIMA AND HANA! ARE IN A DEAD HEAT!!
HEY!! LET YOUR TONGUES TAKE A BREAK WITH SOME FUKUJIN-ZUKE!
THAT WAS A QUICK STOP!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, THANK YOU.
TSUKAMOTO, IF I DON'T COME BACK...
...JUST TELL YOUR FRIENDS WITH A LAUGH HOW YOU USED TO KNOW A FOOLISH MAN...
H-HARIMA-KUN... I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO OVERDO IT...
THAT'S A LOT OF SWEAT YOU'RE PUTTING OUT
WHOA!! CONTESTANT HARIMA HAS TAKEN THE PACE TO A NEW LEVEL!!
GRTCH
HERE I GO!! HYAHHH !!!


I-I'M NOT DONE YET! I CAN STILL... GO...ON...
YES...
A-AKIRA, THAT...
CHANK
カラ
THAT MAN IS INCREDIBLE!! HE MUST BE MOVING HIS SPOON ON INSTINCT ALONE!!
NO...HE'S ALREADY BEGINNING TO LOOK FAINT!!
COULD IT BE THAT HIS GLASSES HAVE FOGGED UP, AND HE CAN'T SEE?!
LOOK!! THAT CONTESTANT IS SCRAPING AT AN EMPTY SPOT ON THE PLATE!!
UR...?!
D-DAMMIT!!
AND THERE IT IS!! HIS SECOND HAS THROWN IN THE TOWEL! CONTESTANT HANA! IS OUT!!
KANN
カン
HANA-!
GASHANN
ガシャン

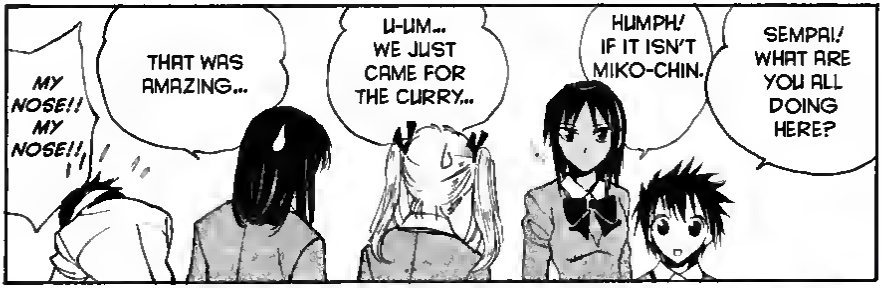

HE'S RUN OUT OF RICE, AND ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE MAGMA CURRY SAUCE!! COULD THIS BE THE END OF HIM?!
うわーっ!!
WHOOOO
NOW!! CONTESTANT HARIMA HAS COME THIS FAR, BUT HE'S IN A BAD SPOT!!


WHAT COULD H-HE BE THINKING OF...?!
KAK
NOOOOOOOO!!

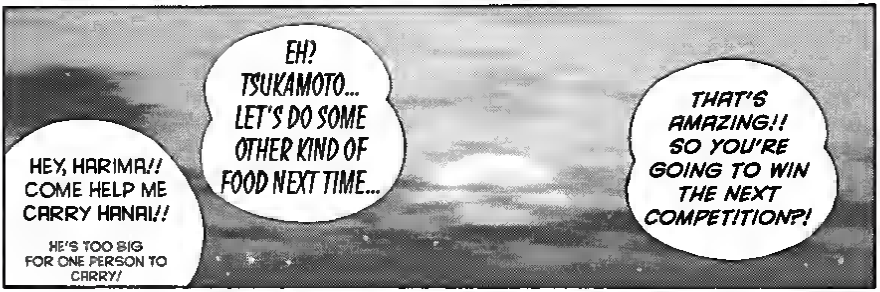

TSUKAMOTO... IF A MAN HEARS THOSE WORDS, HE BECOMES EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO GO ON TO THE BITTER END!!
IT'S A SHAME, BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP NOW!! IF YOU GO ON, YOU'LL...
Y-YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH!!


THAT DID IT! NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SWALLOW, AND...
OOOOHH!! HE DOWNED IT!!
GWAA
RISKING HIS VERY LIFE, HE'S DIVING INTO THE MAGMA WITH ONE BIG GULP!!
GWAAAA-GGGHHH!!

AND WE HAVE A WINNER!! THE SAME WINNER FROM OUR LAST COMPETITION, CONTESTANT TAWARAYA, HAS CLAIMED A DECISIVE VICTORY!!
YES, CHAMPIONS LIKE HER ALWAYS FINISH STRONG!!
YOU HAVE DONE IT, SATSUKI!!
THAT IS FIVE WINS IN A ROW!
KLUNK
BUHAA! ♡ THAT WAS GOOD!!
SPURT

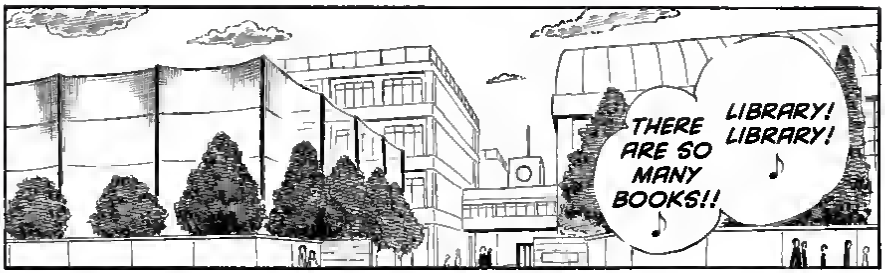


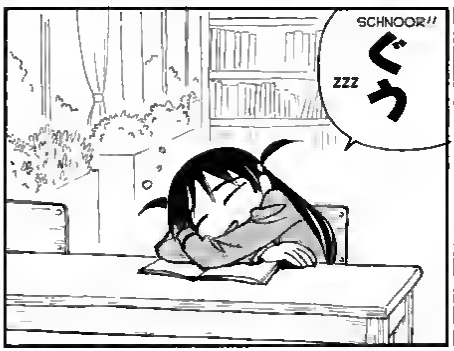
N-NO!! I KNOW THAT I WAS THE REAL WINNER, BUT I LET MY KÔHAI TAKE THE PRIZE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HARIMA-KUN? WE FORCED YOU TO DO ALL THAT FOR NOTHING.


HEY, HARIMA!! COME HELP ME CARRY HANAI!!
HE'S TOO BIG FOR ONE PERSON TO CARRY!
EH? TSUKAMOTO... LET'S DO SOME OTHER KIND OF FOOD NEXT TIME...
THAT'S AMAZING!! SO YOU'RE GOING TO WIN THE NEXT COMPETITION?!

The Setting Sun Takes a Curry-colored Hue.

# 136 · · · · · · · · Fin



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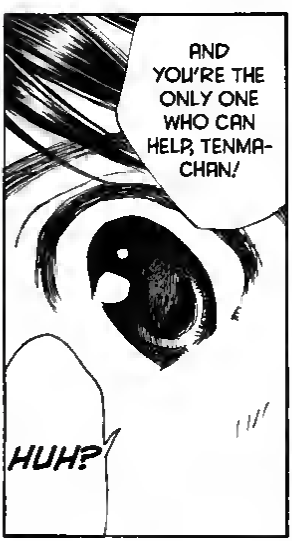
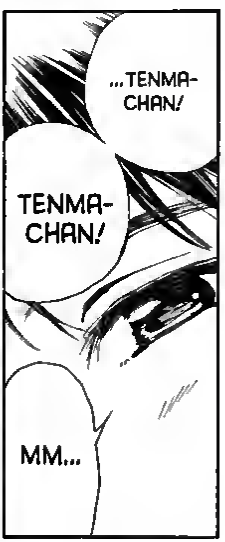
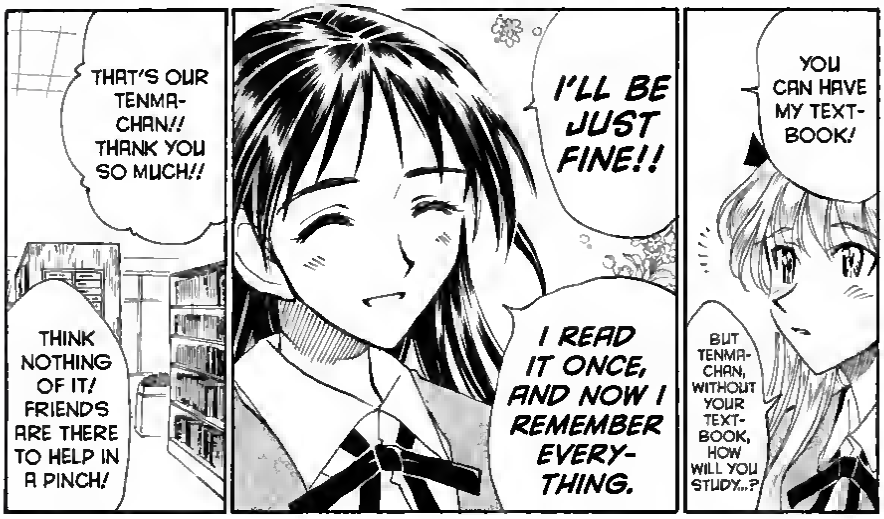


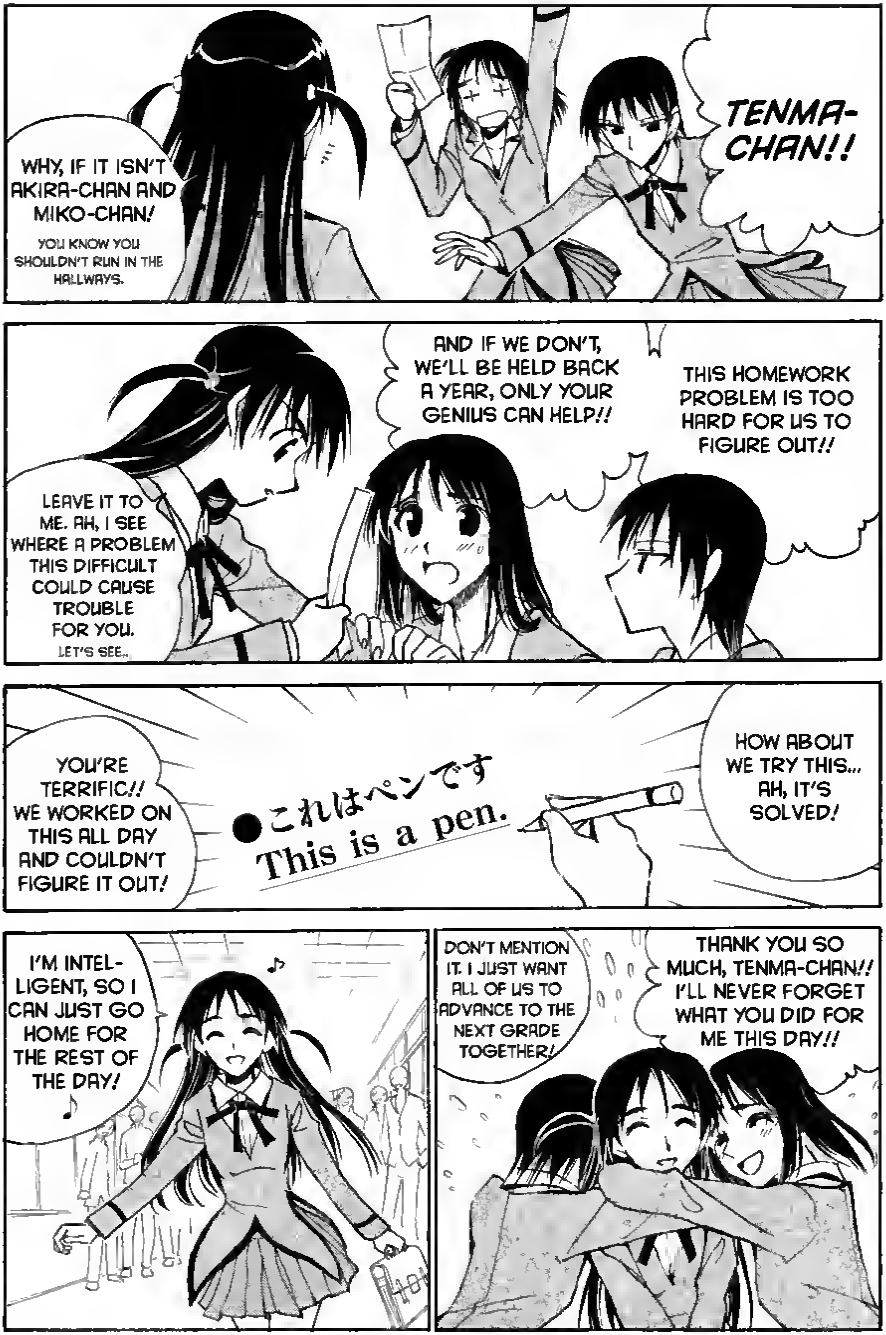



# #137 IF THE SHOE FITS

I WANTED TO BUY A NEW ONE, BUT I DROPPED MY WALLET SOMEWHERE...
AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE TEST SOON! OH, WHY ARE WE ALWAYS MAKING MISTAKES LIKE THIS?!
IT'S JUST...THE TEXTBOOKS HAVE ALL VANISHED, AND WE CAN'T STUDY WITHOUT THEM!!


THAT'S OUR TENMA-CHAN!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
THINK NOTHING OF IT! FRIENDS ARE THERE TO HELP IN A PINCH!
I'LL BE JUST FINE!!
I READ IT ONCE, AND NOW I REMEMBER EVERY-THING.
YOU CAN HAVE MY TEXT-BOOK!
BUT TENMA-CHAN, WITHOUT YOUR TEXT-BOOK, HOW WILL YOU STUDY...?

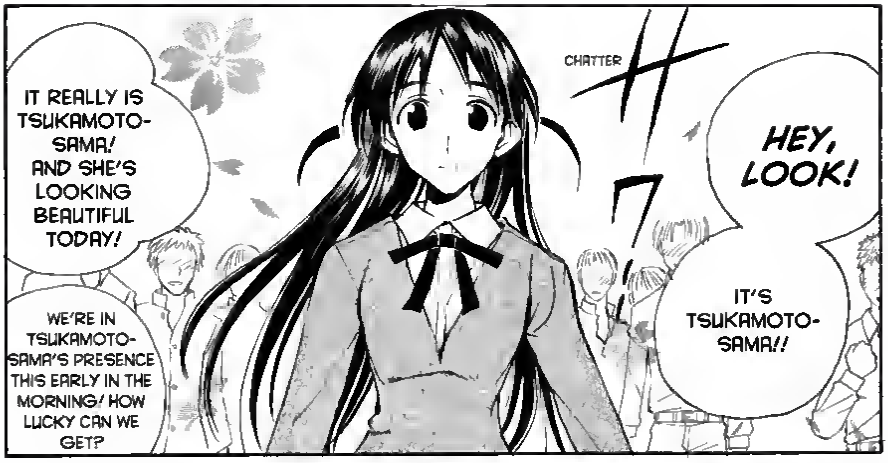
For Some Reason, Tsukamoto Tenma Is Now 165 cm (5' 5").

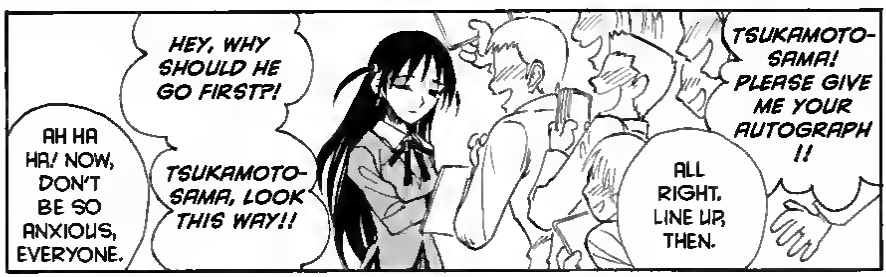

TENMA-CHAN!!
WHY, IF IT ISN'T AKIRA-CHAN AND MIKO-CHAN!
YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T RUN IN THE HALLWAYS.
THIS HOMEWORK PROBLEM IS TOO HARD FOR US TO FIGURE OUT!!
AND IF WE DON'T, WE'LL BE HELD BACK A YEAR, ONLY YOUR GENIUS CAN HELP!!
LEAVE IT TO ME. AH, I SEE WHERE A PROBLEM THIS DIFFICULT COULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
LET'S SEE...
HOW ABOUT WE TRY THIS... AH, IT'S SOLVED!
●これはペンです
This is a pen.
YOU'RE TERRIFIC!! WE WORKED ON THIS ALL DAY AND COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, TENMA-CHAN!! I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR ME THIS DAY!!
DON'T MENTION IT. I JUST WANT ALL OF US TO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT GRADE TOGETHER!
I'M INTELLIGENT, SO I CAN JUST GO HOME FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!

EXCUSE ME, I'M FROM THE BORIPRO AGENCY. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE A STAR?!
HEY! HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU POSING IN THE FASHION MAGAZINES?
THAT'S A TRUE PRINCESS RIGHT THERE!!
WOW! SHE'S CUTE EVEN WHEN SHE TURNS US DOWN!
I WANT TO STAY IN SCHOOL.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, BUT...
YAKUMO, I'M HOME!
WHAT'S GOT YOU IN SUCH A PANIC, YAKUMO?
WHAMM
OHH, I'M IN SO MUCH TROU-BLE!!

For Some Reason, Tsukamoto Tenma Has Turned Down 165 Talent Scouts.

え——ーん
WAHHHH
I KNOW IT WAS MY TURN TO FIX DINNER TONIGHT, BUT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT...
OH, DEAR!
じゃーん
TA-DAH!
I FIGURED YOU MIGHT FORGET, SO I PREPARED A MEAL AHEAD OF TIME.
WOW!! THAT'S WONDER-FUL!!
BUT IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!
EH?
THERE'S PLENTY, SO EAT YOUR FILL!
IT'S DELICIOUS! YOU'VE RAISED YOUR COOKING TO A NEW LEVEL, ONEE-SAMA!
COME NOW, YAKUMO! YOU NEVER GROW UP, DO YOU?
I SPOIL YOU TOO MUCH.
YOU'RE THE BEST ONEE-SAMA EVER!!


IT REALLY IS TSUKAMOTO-SAMA! AND SHE'S LOOKING BEAUTIFUL TODAY!
WE'RE IN TSUKAMOTO-SAMA'S PRESENCE THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING! HOW LUCKY CAN WE GET?
CHATTER
HEY, LOOK!
IT'S TSUKAMOTO-SAMA!!


AH HA HA! NOW, DON'T BE SO ANXIOUS, EVERYONE.
HEY, WHY SHOULD HE GO FIRST?!
TSUKAMOTO-SAMA, LOOK THIS WAY!!
TSUKAMOTO-SAMA! PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH !!
ALL RIGHT. LINE UP, THEN.

SHE'S AS POPULAR AS SHE ALWAYS IS.
AND DESPITE IT, SHE'S SO AMIABLE. IT'S AN HONOR JUST TO BE WITH HER.
CLAMMER
わい
わい
CLAMMER
QUIT PUSHIN'!! QUIT PUSHIN'!!

OH, DEAR! HOW CAN ONE CHOOSE?
NO!! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE TSUKAMOTO-SAMA HAPPY!!
どや
RUMBLE
HEY, DON'T BUTT IN!! I WAS BEFORE YOU!!
TSUKAMOTO-SAN!! GO OUT WITH ME!!
どぉぉ
RUMBLE

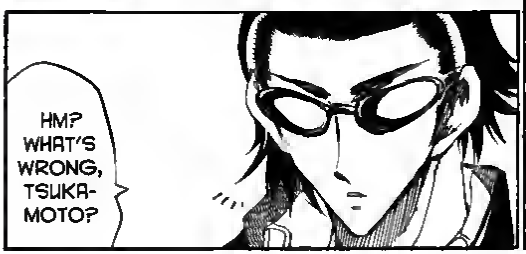
WHOEVER HE IS... IF HE'S LOVED BY TSUKAMOTO-SAMA, HE MUST BE ONE HAPPY GUY!!
NO!! WHO?! WHO CAN IT BE?!
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING FOR ME!
BUT MY HEART IS SET ON ONE MAN AND ONE MAN ONLY.
NO, THAT ISN'T TRUE! YOU'RE A WONDERFUL PERSON, ERI-CHAN!
TENMA-CHAN, YOU SURE ARE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS!
I WISH WITH ALL MY HEART THAT I COULD BE MORE LIKE YOU!
I-IT'S YOU...!
!
TSUKAMOTO-SAN!
SIGH... IT'S HARD WHEN EVERYONE LOVES ME SO MUCH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
BUT THE ONE I LOVE IS...

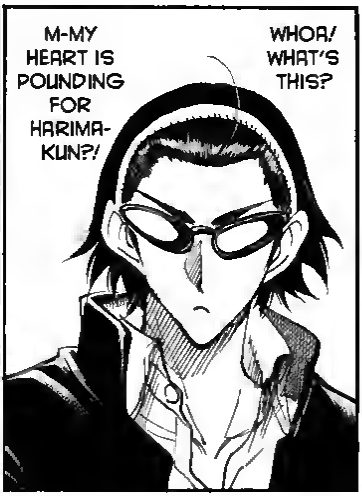
HARIMA-KUN!
WHAT IS IT? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO GRAVE?
TSUKAMOTO-SAN, I HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO SAY!
THE ONE I LOVE IS...
ZWIMM
EH? N-NO, YOU MUSTN'T...
HARIMA-KUN, YOU'RE DATING YAKUMO, AREN'T YOU?
NO... THE ONE I LOVE... THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER LOVED IS YOU!! BE MY GIRL!!
EHH?!!

GAMPH
ガ!
WAAA!!
KAWW
KAWW
EH...
.....
BUT WHY'D I HAVE A DREAM LIKE THAT?
I'M SO DUMB!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S NO BIG SURPRISE!
HAHH
はあ
OHH... IT WAS JUST A DREAM!
THAT REALLY SUR-PRISED ME...!!
HARIMA-KUN...
BUT...

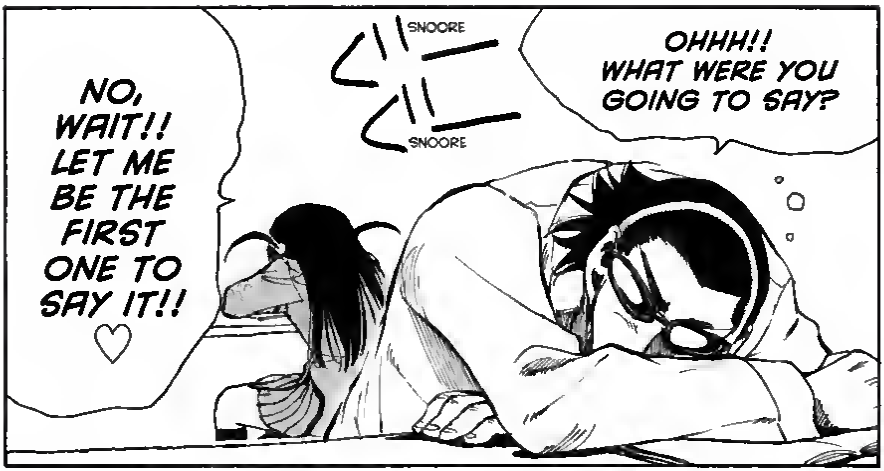
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?

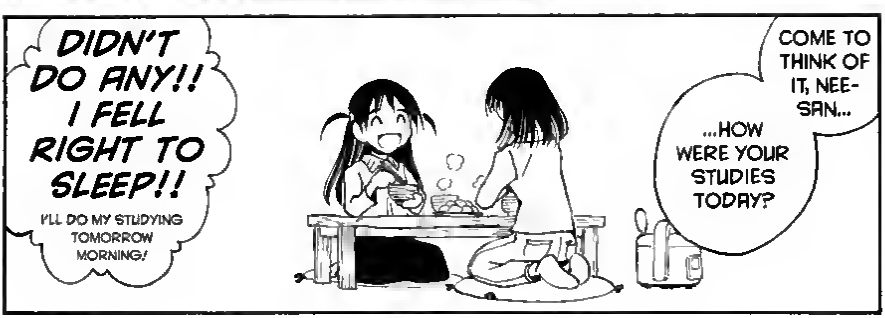
EH...?



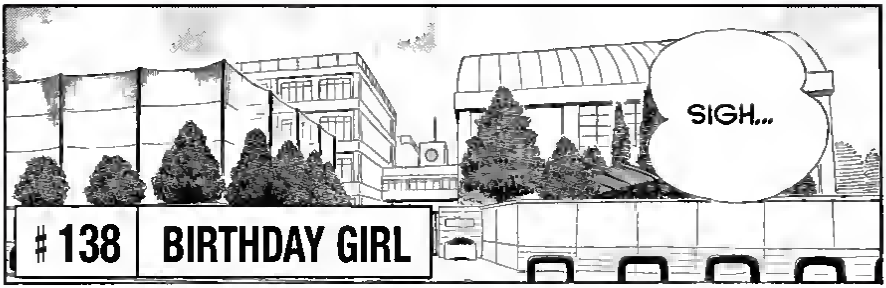
SST
YOUR FACE IS FLUSHED. MAYBE YOU HAVE A FEVER?
.....
.....
HUH?
H-HARIMA-KUN.
BLUSSSH
YEAH, WHAT?
U-UM...
J-JUST NOW, I...
I...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...
BUT THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU...
AH

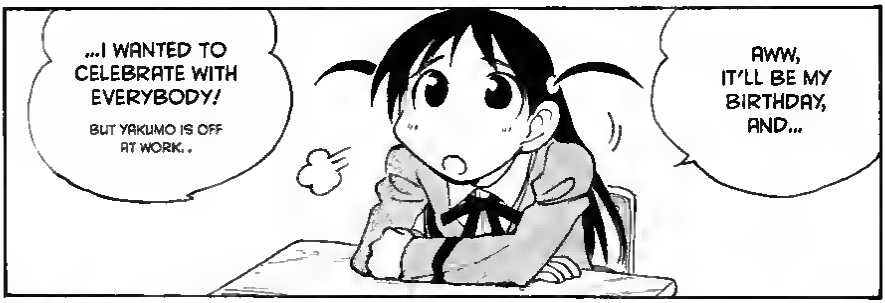


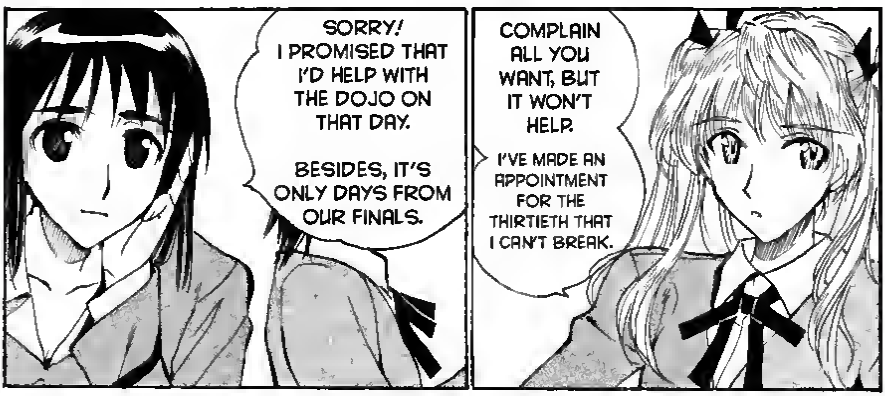

DIDN'T DO ANY!! I FELL RIGHT TO SLEEP!!
I'LL DO MY STUDYING TOMORROW MORNING!
COME TO THINK OF IT, NEE-SAN...
...HOW WERE YOUR STUDIES TODAY?

Wishing Everyone Happiness.

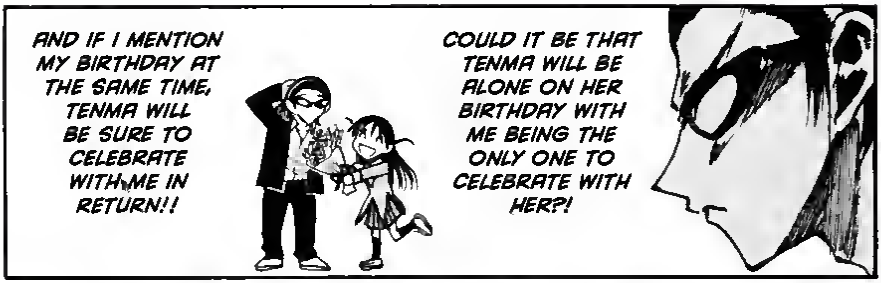
# 137 · · · · · · · · · Fin


SIGH...
# 138 BIRTHDAY GIRL

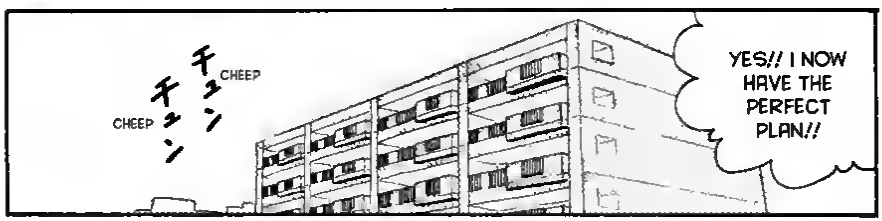

...I WANTED TO CELEBRATE WITH EVERYBODY!
BUT YAKUMO IS OFF AT WORK..
AWW, IT'LL BE MY BIRTHDAY, AND...


SORRY! I PROMISED THAT I'D HELP WITH THE DOJO ON THAT DAY.
BESIDES, IT'S ONLY DAYS FROM OUR FINALS.
COMPLAIN ALL YOU WANT, BUT IT WON'T HELP.
I'VE MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE THIRTIETH THAT I CAN'T BREAK.

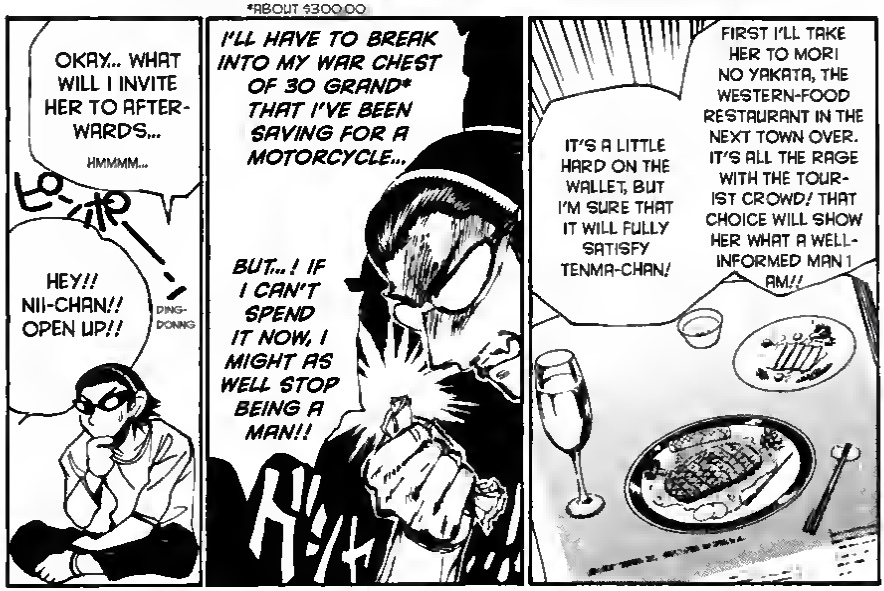
WHAT'S THIS ...?!
YEAH, BUT WHEN FINALS ARE OVER, WE CAN HAVE A HUGE CELEBRATION!
HUH? MY BIRTHDAY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OLD FINALS!
SKRCH
SKRCH


AND IF I MENTION MY BIRTHDAY AT THE SAME TIME, TENMA WILL BE SURE TO CELEBRATE WITH ME IN RETURN!!
COULD IT BE THAT TENMA WILL BE ALONE ON HER BIRTHDAY WITH ME BEING THE ONLY ONE TO CELEBRATE WITH HER?!

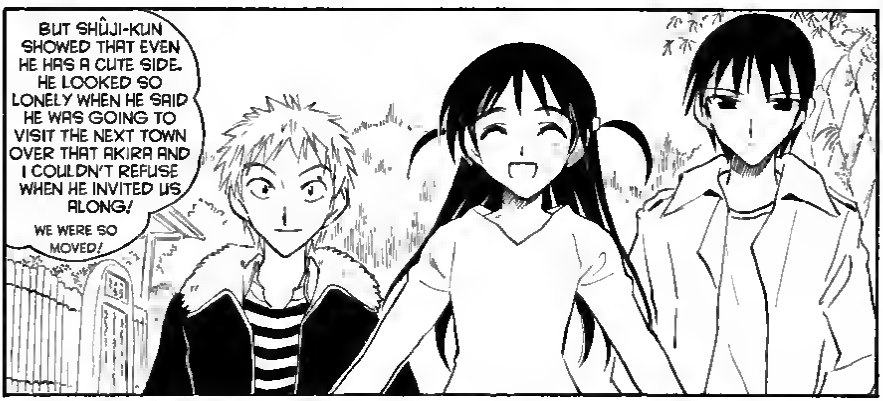
IF THESE ARE THE FACTS, I WILL HAVE TO MAKE MY PLANS RIGHT NOW!!

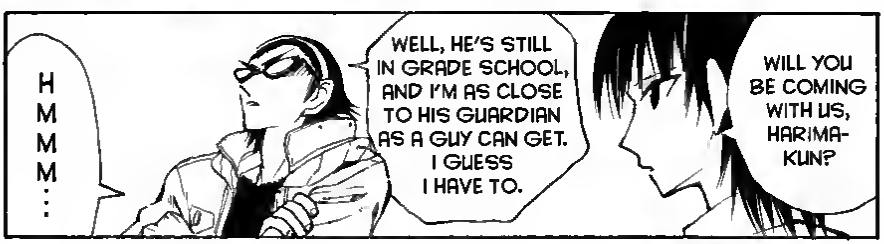

チュン CHEEP
チュン CHEEP
YES!! I NOW HAVE THE PERFECT PLAN!!

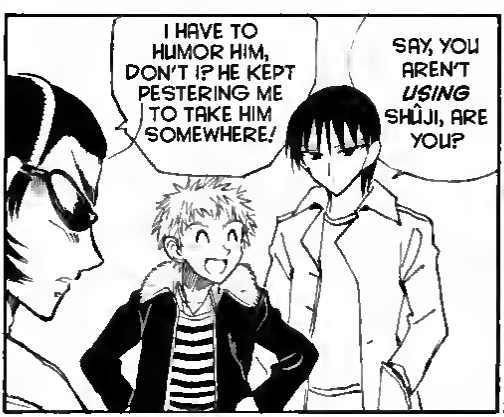
*ABOUT $300,00


OKAY... WHAT WILL I INVITE HER TO AFTER-WARDS...
HMMMM...
HEY!! NII-CHAN!! OPEN UP!!
PING-PONNG
I'LL HAVE TO BREAK INTO MY WAR CHEST OF 30 GRAND* THAT I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A MOTORCYCLE...
BUT...! IF I CAN'T SPEND IT NOW, I MIGHT AS WELL STOP BEING A MAN!!
IT'S A LITTLE HARD ON THE WALLET, BUT I'M SURE THAT IT WILL FULLY SATISFY TENMA-CHAN!
FIRST I'LL TAKE HER TO MORI NO YAKATA, THE WESTERN-FOOD RESTAURANT IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER. IT'S ALL THE RAGE WITH THE TOURIST CROWD! THAT CHOICE WILL SHOW HER WHAT A WELL-INFORMED MAN I AM!!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, HARIMA-KUN!!
AND THE NEXT DAY...


BUT SHÛJI-KUN SHOWED THAT EVEN HE HAS A CUTE SIDE. HE LOOKED SO LONELY WHEN HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO VISIT THE NEXT TOWN OVER THAT AKIRA AND I COULDN'T REFUSE WHEN HE INVITED US ALONG!
WE WERE SO MOVED!

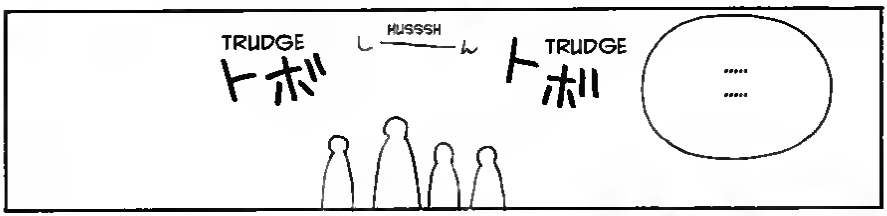

HMMM...
WELL, HE'S STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL, AND I'M AS CLOSE TO HIS GUARDIAN AS A GUY CAN GET. I GUESS I HAVE TO.
WILL YOU BE COMING WITH US, HARIMA-KUN?

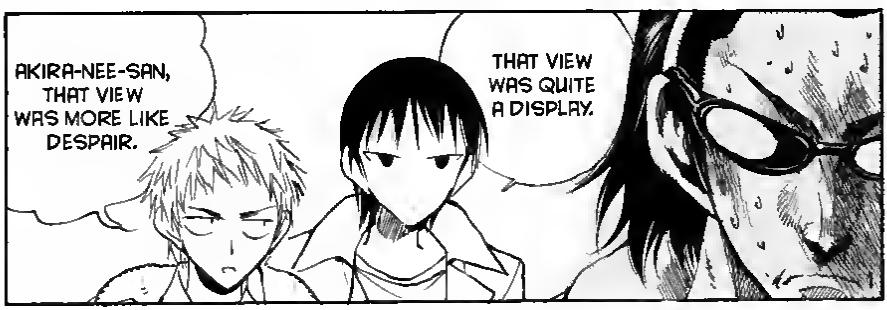

I HAVE TO HUMOR HIM, DON'T I? HE KEPT PESTERING ME TO TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE!
SAY, YOU AREN'T *USING* SHÛJI, ARE YOU?

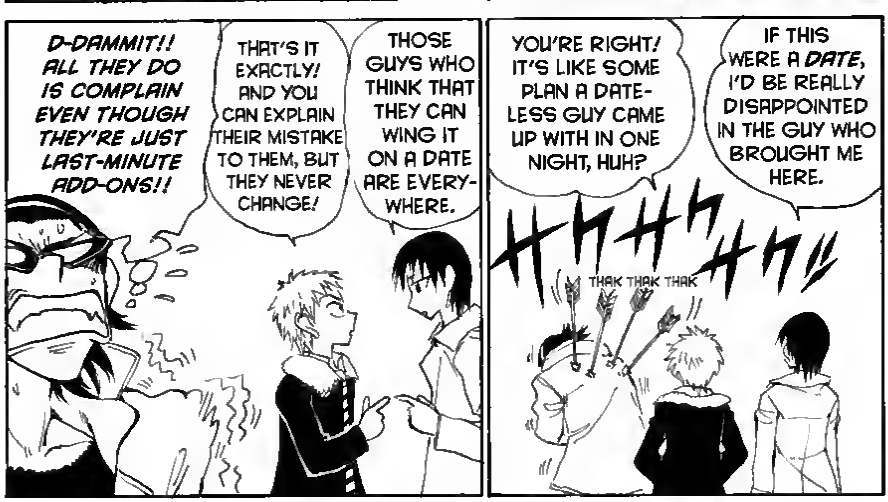
HM... THAT'S JUST TOO BAD!
ERI-CHAN AND MIKO-CHAN SAY THEY HAVE PLANS, SO THEY CAN'T COME.
YES!! IT'S ALL GOING AS PLANNED!!

I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I COULD GO ON FOR DAYS WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PLACE.
I'LL EXPLAIN ITS RUSTERE BEAUTY
AND DO YOU ACTUALLY KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THIS TOWN?
HEH... YOU DON'T TRUST ANYONE, DO YOU?
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD! HUH, SHÛJI-KUN?
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS SHRINE IS ONE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE TOWN!
NII-CHAN! THIS ISN'T RUSTERE, IT'S JUST A RUIN!!
SHUT UP, BRAT!! THE NEXT PLACE WE GO WILL BE REALLY INCREDIBLE!!
EH? THE TOUR'S OVER ALREADY?
NOT EVEN A HISTORICAL PLAQUE?
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY. YOU'LL SEE THE VIEW SOON ENOUGH.
WOW!! I WANT TO SEE THAT!!
...AND IN THE DISTANCE, YOU CAN SEE THE OCEAN! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL VIEW!
IN THE REAR GARDENS, THE JAPANESE MAPLES TURN FABULOUS SHADES OF RED...
THIS IS THE FAMOUS HASEGAWA-DERA TEMPLE!

ENTRANCE FEE
ADULTS: 300 YEN
CHILDREN: 200 YEN
WE'RE CLOSING FOR THE DAY. I'D BETTER BE GETTING ON HOME.


TRUDGE トボ
HUSSSH
TRUDGE トボ
.....
.....

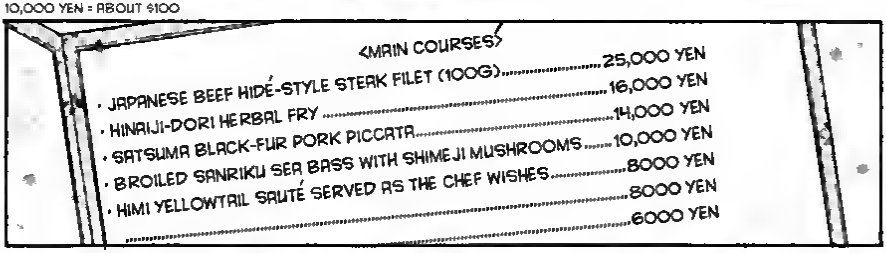

AKIRA-NEE-SAN, THAT VIEW WAS MORE LIKE DESPAIR.
THAT VIEW WAS QUITE A DISPLAY.

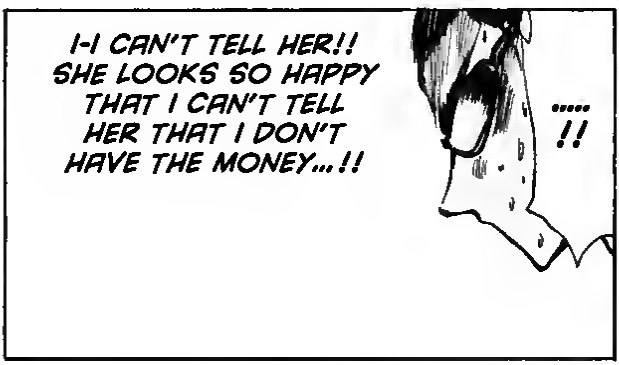

D-DAMMIT!! ALL THEY DO IS COMPLAIN EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE JUST LAST-MINUTE ADD-ONS!!
THAT'S IT EXACTLY! AND YOU CAN EXPLAIN THEIR MISTAKE TO THEM, BUT THEY NEVER CHANGE!
THOSE GUYS WHO THINK THAT THEY CAN WING IT ON A DATE ARE EVERY-WHERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S LIKE SOME PLAN A DATE-LESS GUY CAME UP WITH IN ONE NIGHT, HUH?
IF THIS WERE A DATE, I'D BE REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE GUY WHO BROUGHT ME HERE.
THAK THAK THAK

TOO BAD ABOUT THE TEMPLE, HUH?
TH-THIS COULD BE A DISAS-TER!!
AH!! TENMA-CHAN IS LOOKING AT ME WITH PITY IN HER EYES...!!
IF I CAN'T MAKE THE GIRL I LOVE SMILE ON HER BIRTHDAY, WHAT KIND OF CELEBRA-TION IS IT?!
D-DAMMIT!!
DO IT, KENJI!!
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I HAVE TO BET EVERY-THING ON DINNER!!

じゃん
TA-DAH
Mori no Yakata
H-HEY, NII-CHAN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE THE MONEY FOR THIS PLACE?!
WOW, WHAT A STYLISH PLACE!!
YOUR MENU, SIR.
YEAH... LEAVE IT TO ME. I COME HERE ALL THE TIME...
..... EH?

10,000 YEN = ABOUT $100

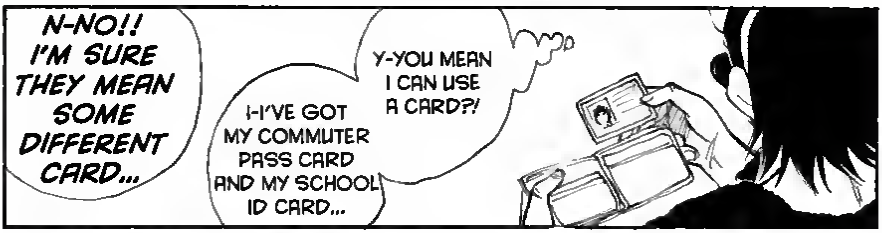

<MAIN COURSES>
• JAPANESE BEEF HIDÉ-STYLE STEAK FILET (100G).....25,000 YEN
• HINAIJI-DORI HERBAL FRY.....16,000 YEN
• SATSUMA BLACK-FUR PORK PICCATA.....14,000 YEN
• BROILED SANRIKU SEA BASS WITH SHIMEJI MUSHROOMS.....10,000 YEN
• HIMI YELLOWTAIL SAUTÉ SERVED AS THE CHEF WISHES.....8000 YEN
.....8000 YEN
.....6000 YEN

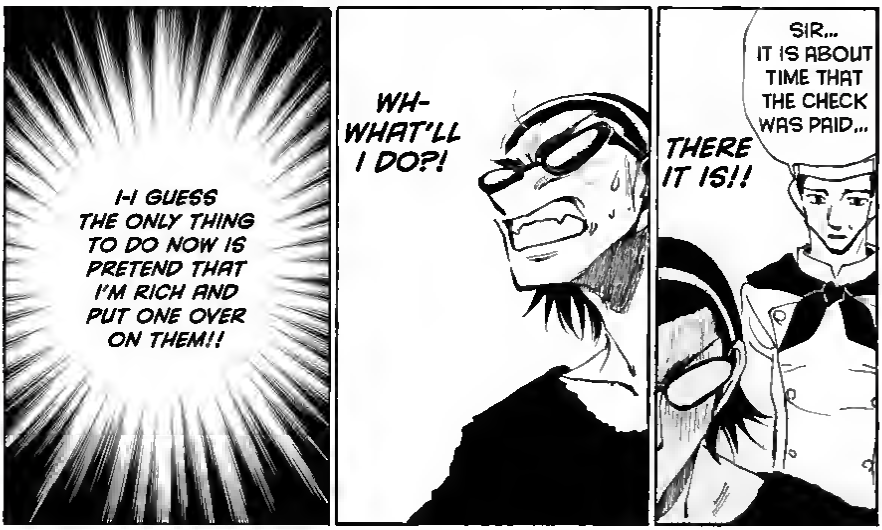


N-NO... UM... WE'LL TAKE THE CHEF'S POT-LUCK DINNER COURSE FOR FOUR, PLEASE.
WHEN YOU SAY WATER, MIGHT YOU BE REFERRING TO OUR MINERAL WATER?
EXCUSE ME?
W—
WATER. PLEASE...
DRAAN
WOWW!! THIS IS INCRED-IBLE!!
Y-YEAH... DON'T MENTION IT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, HARIMA-KUN!!
IT'S TRUE!! IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS!!
I'VE NEVER HAD FOOD LIKE THIS BEFORE!!
GOBBLE GOBBLE
THIS IS GREAT!! GREAT!!
TH-THIS IS BAD!! I'M WAY OVER BUDGET... I DON'T EVEN TASTE WHAT I'M EATING RIGHT NOW...

I WONDER IF WE'RE A LITTLE TOO LATE TO SEE THE LEAVES CHANGE COLOR.
YES, MISS. THEY SAY THE HEIGHT OF THE SEASON WAS TWO WEEKS AGO.
DAMMIT!! THOSE RICH CREEPS HAVEN'T GOT A WORRY IN THE WORLD!!

YOU SAY YOU TAKE CARDS?
YES, OF COURSE WE DO, MISS.


Y-YOU MEAN I CAN USE A CARD?!
I-I'VE GOT MY COMMUTER PASS CARD AND MY SCHOOL ID CARD...
N-NO!! I'M SURE THEY MEAN SOME DIFFERENT CARD...

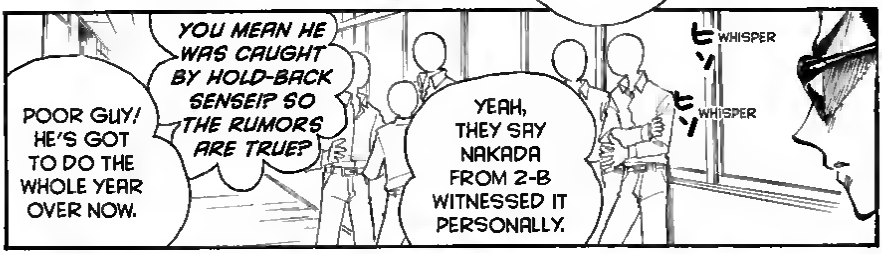

I-I GUESS THE ONLY THING TO DO NOW IS PRETEND THAT I'M RICH AND PUT ONE OVER ON THEM!!
WH-WHAT'LL I DO?!
SIR... IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT THE CHECK WAS PAID...
THERE IT IS!!

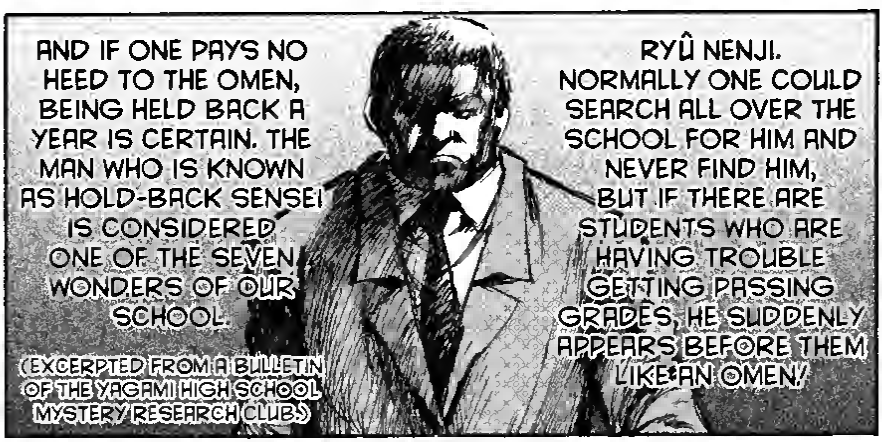
...IT'S JUST THE RED LEAVES ARE BEAUTIFUL. AREN'T THEY?
N-NO...
HUH?
SO THE BEST TIME TO SEE THE CHANGING OF THE LEAVES WAS TWO WEEKS AGO...?
..... RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR...
I-I HAVE TO USE THE REST-ROOM...
HE'S LOOKING REALLY SUSPICIOUS!!
.....
.....
STARE
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO CAUSE YOUR SUNNY FACE TO CLOUD OVER...
I-IT'S NO GOOD! FORGIVE ME, TENMA-CHAN...
PLEASE PUT THIS TABLE ON MY CARD AS WELL.
.....
.....
HUH?
U-UM...!!

OH, OF COURSE, SAWACHIKA-SAMA!!
AND DID YOU ENJOY YOUR DINNER MEETING WITH HAYASHI-SAMA?
THE DELICIOUS FOOD ENLIVENED THE MEETING GREATLY.
PRINCESS... WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
EH...?
ONLY ONCE A YEAR WILL I GIVE YOU THIS KIND OF CHANCE. NOW HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT!
IT'S TENMA'S BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT? IT'S NOT RIGHT TO KEEP A GIRL WAITING!
OH, TENMA! WHAT A COINCIDENCE! MAYBE I'LL JOIN YOU FOR JUST A BIT!
HEY!! ERI-CHAN, YOU'RE HERE, TOO?!
COME HAVE DESSERT WITH US!!

Thank you, Sawachika-san.

# 138 · · · · · · · · · Fin


WHISPER
WHISPER
YEAH, THEY SAY NAKADA FROM 2-B WITNESSED IT PERSONALLY.
YOU MEAN HE WAS CAUGHT BY HOLD-BACK SENSEI? SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE?
POOR GUY! HE'S GOT TO DO THE WHOLE YEAR OVER NOW.


AND IF ONE PAYS NO HEED TO THE OMEN, BEING HELD BACK A YEAR IS CERTAIN. THE MAN WHO IS KNOWN AS HOLD-BACK SENSEI IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF OUR SCHOOL.
(EXCERPTED FROM A BULLETIN OF THE YAGAMI HIGH SCHOOL MYSTERY RESEARCH CLUB.)
RYÛ NENJI. NORMALLY ONE COULD SEARCH ALL OVER THE SCHOOL FOR HIM AND NEVER FIND HIM, BUT IF THERE ARE STUDENTS WHO ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING PASSING GRADES, HE SUDDENLY APPEARS BEFORE THEM LIKE AN OMEN.

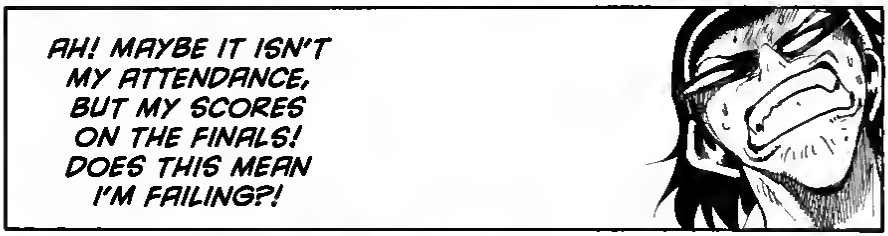
HOLD-BACK SENSEI? THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!! THROUGH MY LOVE POWER FOR TENMA-CHAN, I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR!!
SHKK
..... HEH!

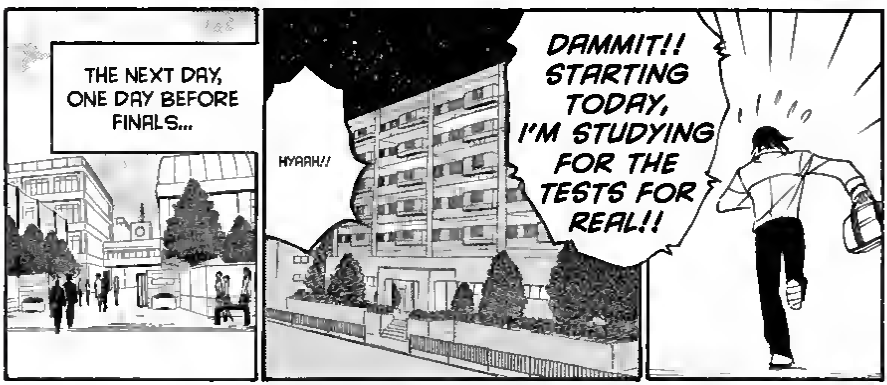
# #139 THE DEAD CLASS

.....
.....
SSS
WHAZZAT?
HSSSH
YOU'RE KIDD-INNNN-NNNN-NNG!!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT?! DAMMIT!! DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP! SHOW YOURSELF!!
DMP
HUSSH
NOBODY'S HERE... NO, I'M SURE I SAW...
HUH?
WHOOSH
DID YOU SEE A STOCKY, WHITE-HAIRED OLD GUY COME PAST HERE JUST NOW?
EH? NOBODY'S BEEN BY HERE.
AND MY NAME'S YOSHIDAYAMA.
OH? HARIMA-SAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
A-AH, YOSHIDA!!
I-I'M SORRY!! IT WAS JUST A JOKE!!
Y-YOU JERK!! I HAVE HARDLY MISSED A DAY OF SCHOOL THIS YEAR!!
HOW DARE YOU TALK ABOUT ME THAT WAY?!
WAIT!! YOU SAID A STOCKY, WHITE-HAIRED OLD GUY... SO YOU SAW HIM, TOO? HOLD-BACK SENSEI THAT EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT...?
KEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!!

!!
カリチャ
KACHAK
BUT WHY WOULD I HAVE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
GEEZ! THIS IS JUST STUPID!!
Men's


AH! MAYBE IT ISN'T MY ATTENDANCE, BUT MY SCORES ON THE FINALS! DOES THIS MEAN I'M FAILING?!


THE NEXT DAY, ONE DAY BEFORE FINALS...
HYAAH!!
DAMMIT!! STARTING TODAY, I'M STUDYING FOR THE TESTS FOR REAL!!

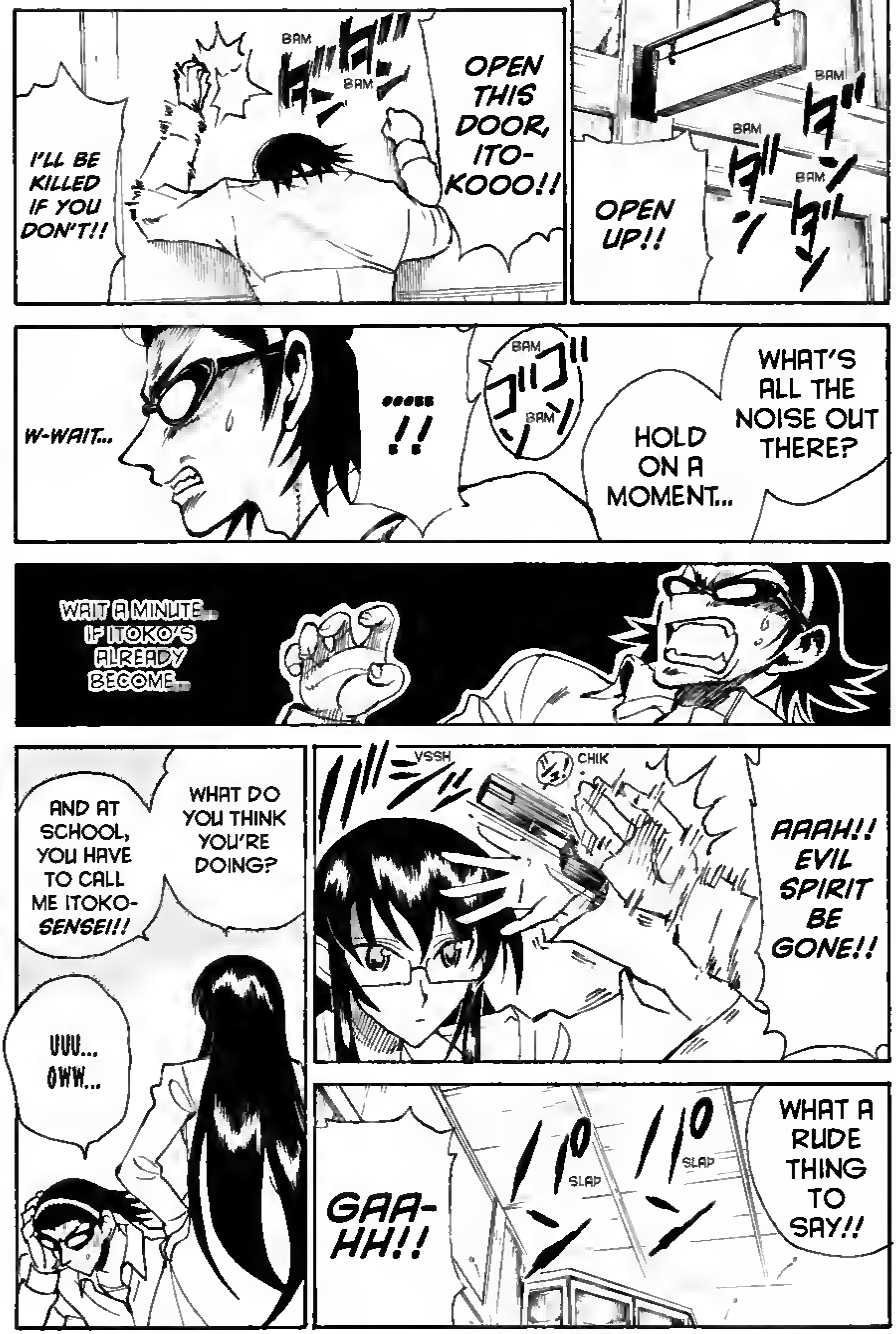
HEH! IT'S NOT USUAL FOR ME, BUT I SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT STUDYING!! NOW I CAN'T BE BLINDSIDED!!
SHKK

R-RIGHT!!
HEY, HARIMA!! PASS THE BALL!!
HARIMA!! THAT WAS GOING TOO FAR!!
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, IMADORI?!
NOOOOOO!!
BASHAM
GWAAH!!
NO... IT MUST BE MY MIND PLAYING TRICKS ON ME AFTER TOO MUCH STUDYING...
POK
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! AFTER ALL THAT STUDYING I DID...

Now, Eat Up.
UWAAAAAAHHH!!
KACHANG
HAHH...
HAHH...
HAHH...
THIS IS REAL BAD...
IT IS A FULL-BLOWN NEUROSIS!!!

SST
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HARIMA-SAN?
AH... YEAH. SORRY ABOUT THIS, ICHIJŌ...
YOU CAN HAVE MINE IF YOU LIKE...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU...
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
EEEEYAAH! STAY BACK!! PLEASE STAY AWAY!!
YOU'VE GONE WHITE! ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
BUMP
THAT HURT!
LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BEARD!!

YOU'RE IN OUR WAY!!
UUUUGYAAAH!! THREE!
THREE!!
THREE!!!
SAVE MEEEE!!
DMP
W-WAIT A SECOND!!
NO IDEA. MAYBE HE ATE SPOILED FOOD OR SOME-THING.
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?

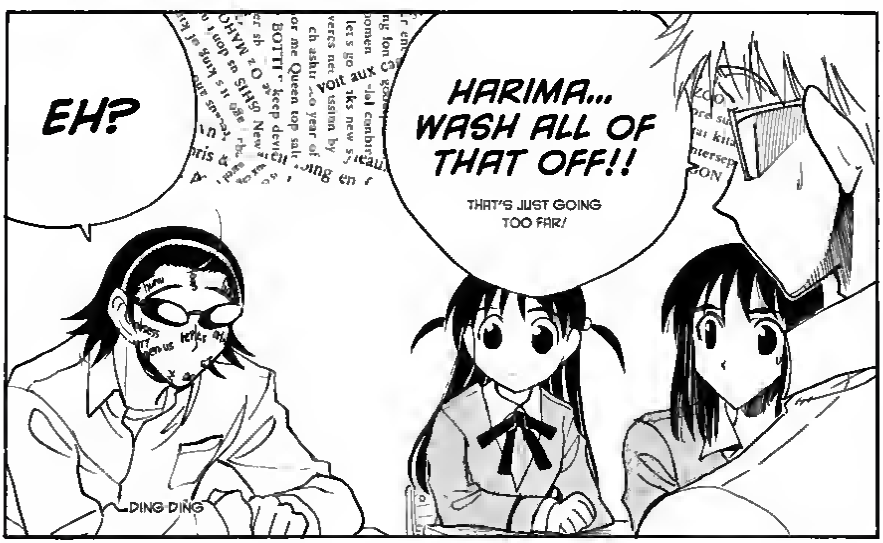

I'LL BE KILLED IF YOU DON'T!!
BAM
BAM
OPEN THIS DOOR, ITO-KOOO!!
OPEN UP!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
W-WAIT...
!!
BAM
BAM
HOLD ON A MOMENT...
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE OUT THERE?
WAIT A MINUTE... IF ITOKO'S ALREADY BECOME...
AND AT SCHOOL, YOU HAVE TO CALL ME ITOKO-SENSEI!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
UUU... OWW...
VSSH
CHIK
AAAH!! EVIL SPIRIT BE GONE!!
GAA-HH!!
SLAP
SLAP
WHAT A RUDE THING TO SAY!!

I ALREADY TRIED THAT!! IT DIDN'T HELP AT ALL.
HM. THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THAT IS TO STUDY.
P-PLEASE!! THE SPIRIT IS GOING TO CATCH ME AT THIS RATE!!
HMM... THEN I'LL TELL YOU ONE PLAN THAT'S SURE TO WORK.
t
e
a
ink
LISTEN CAREFULLY, KENJI-KUN. YOU HAVE TO WRITE ENGLISH WORDS ALL OVER YOUR BODY. THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THAT PARTICULAR ANCIENT TEACHER AWAY FROM YOU IS TO WRITE EACH LETTER WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART!
SST
also
indicate

YES!! THAT MAKES IT COMPLETE!!
HAHH... NOW THE ONLY PLACE LEFT TO WRITE ON IS MY REAR END...

ALL RIGHT. WE'LL BEGIN THE TEST NOW!
PUT YOUR BOOKS AWAY

NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME!! COME ON, THIRD SEMESTER!!
HA HA HA!! HE'S STOPPED SHOWING UP!!

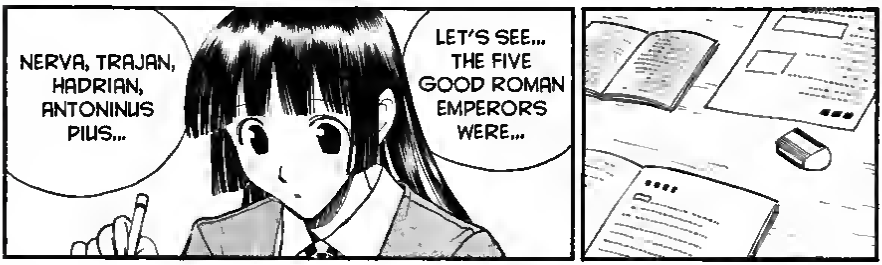

EH?
HARIMA... WASH ALL OF THAT OFF!!
THAT'S JUST GOING TOO FAR!
DING DING

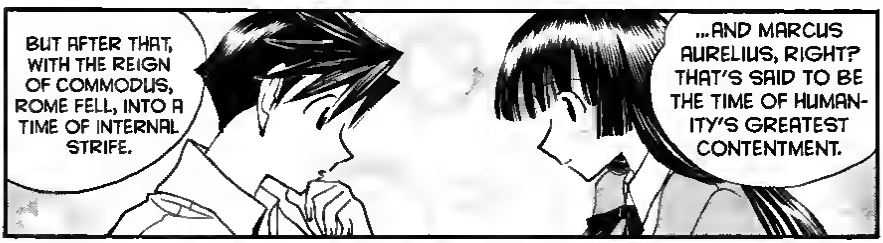
I'M SO SORRY, TENMA-CHAN...
DAMMIT!! MY LIFE IS OVER!!
PLEASE, TANI-SAN!! THIS ISN'T CHEATING!! THIS IS AN ANCIENT RITE OF...
YOU CAN EITHER WASH OR FAIL THE TEST AND TAKE THE YEAR OVER AGAIN.
HUH?
SIGH... I GUESS THESE ARE MY FINAL WORDS...
HARIMA HAD WASHED ALL OF THE ENGLISH WORDS OFF OF HIS BODY, BUT HE REMEMBERED THE WORDS HE HAD WRITTEN. AND THUS, HE WAS ABLE TO PASS THE FIRST DAY'S EXAMINATIONS.
OH!! I CAN FIGURE THIS ONE OUT, TOO!
FOR SOME REASON I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS.
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
を知らずに居た。
was ignorant
SHHH
SHHH
YAKUMO, I'M HOME!!

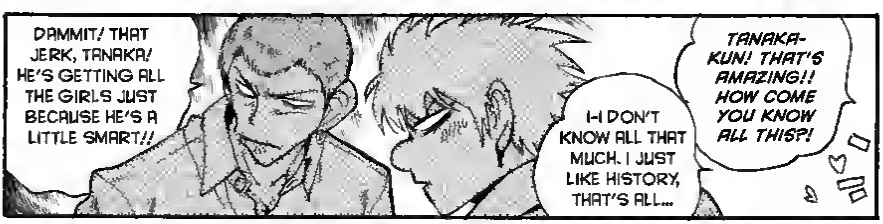
Are There Any Dumb People Present?

# 139 · · · · · · · · · Fin

#140 ESCAPE TO VICTORY

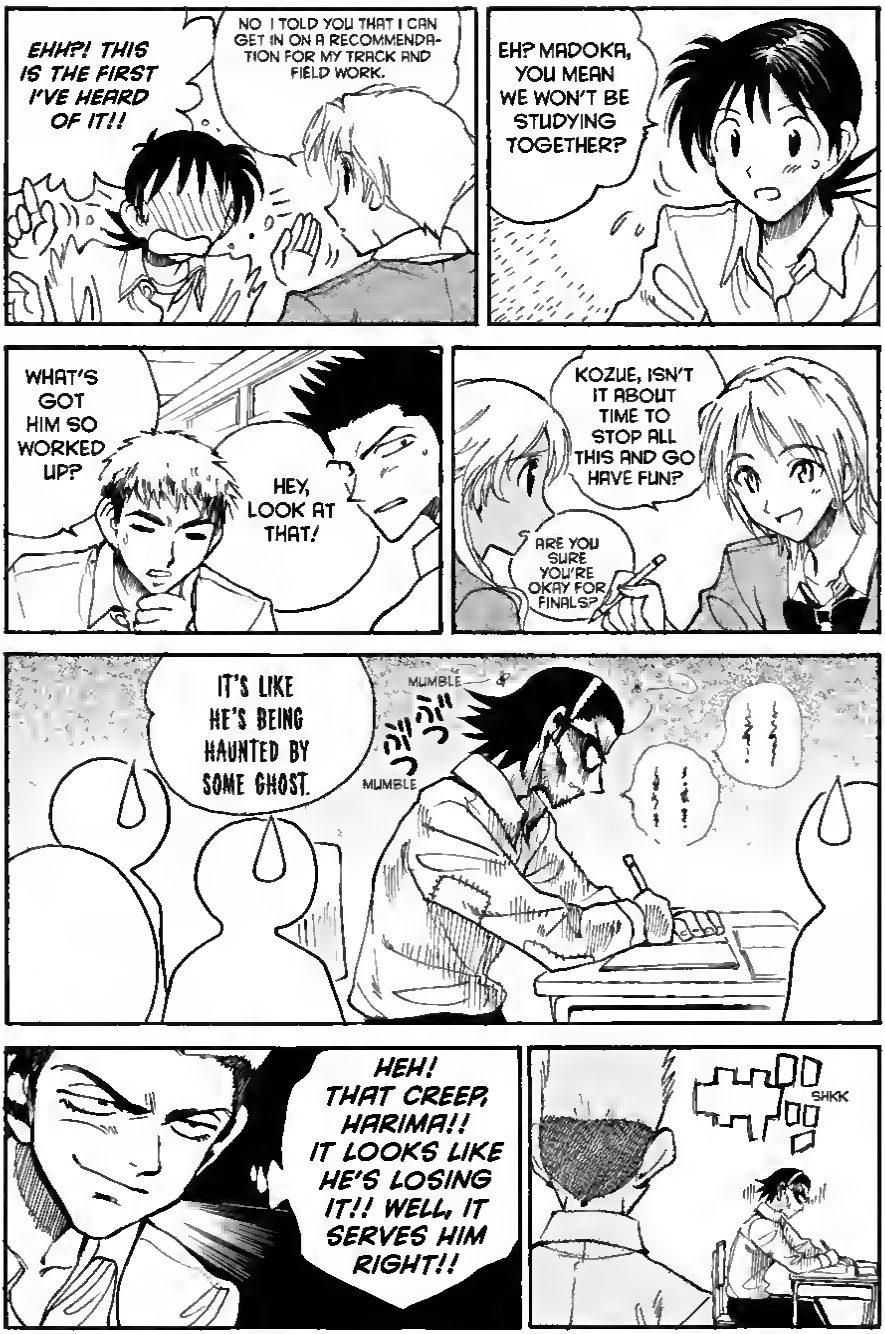

NERVA, TRAJAN, HADRIAN, ANTONINUS PIUS...
LET'S SEE... THE FIVE GOOD ROMAN EMPERORS WERE...

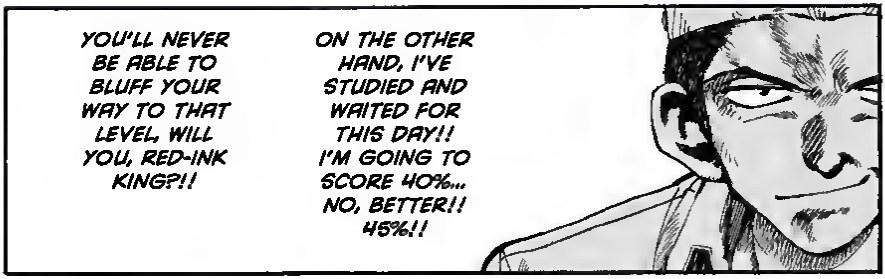

BUT AFTER THAT, WITH THE REIGN OF COMMODUS, ROME FELL, INTO A TIME OF INTERNAL STRIFE.
...AND MARCUS AURELIUS, RIGHT? THAT'S SAID TO BE THE TIME OF HUMANITY'S GREATEST CONTENTMENT.


DAMMIT! THAT JERK, TANAKA! HE'S GETTING ALL THE GIRLS JUST BECAUSE HE'S A LITTLE SMART!!
I-I DON'T KNOW ALL THAT MUCH. I JUST LIKE HISTORY, THAT'S ALL...
TANAKA-KUN! THAT'S AMAZING!! HOW COME YOU KNOW ALL THIS?!

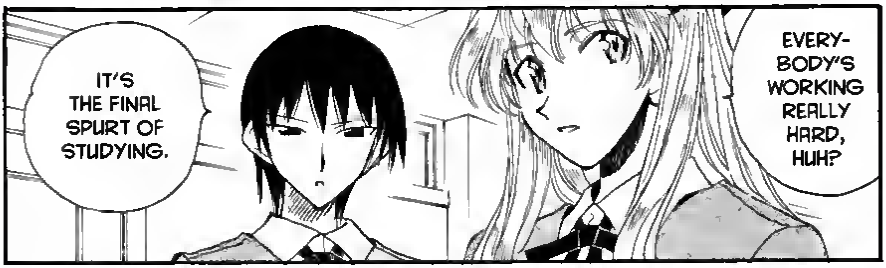
THEY'RE TRYING TO GET INTO THE SAME COLLEGE.
DO YOUR BEST WITH YOUR STUDIES, TOO, SHIGEO!
SO YOU CAN GET INTO THE SAME COLLEGE I'M GOING TO!

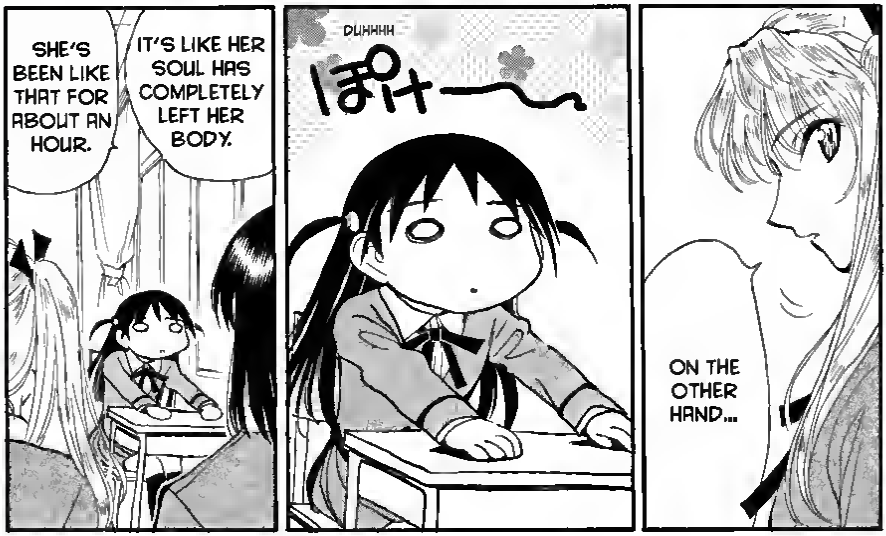
THEY'VE BEEN AN ITEM EVER SINCE THE SURVIVAL GAME.
HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT TANAKA AND NAGAYAMA-SAN WERE ALL THAT CLOSE.


EHH?! THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT!!
NO I TOLD YOU THAT I CAN GET IN ON A RECOMMENDATION FOR MY TRACK AND FIELD WORK.
EH? MADOKA, YOU MEAN WE WON'T BE STUDYING TOGETHER?
WHAT'S GOT HIM SO WORKED UP?
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
KOZUE, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TO STOP ALL THIS AND GO HAVE FUN?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY FOR FINALS?
IT'S LIKE HE'S BEING HAUNTED BY SOME GHOST.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
つづ つづ
HEH! THAT CREEP, HARIMA!! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S LOSING IT!! WELL, IT SERVES HIM RIGHT!!
SHKK

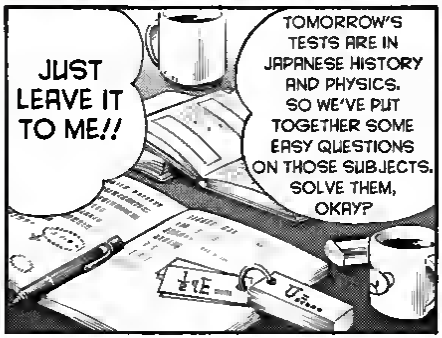

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BLUFF YOUR WAY TO THAT LEVEL, WILL YOU, RED-INK KING?!!
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE STUDIED AND WAITED FOR THIS DAY!! I'M GOING TO SCORE 40%... NO, BETTER!! 45%!!

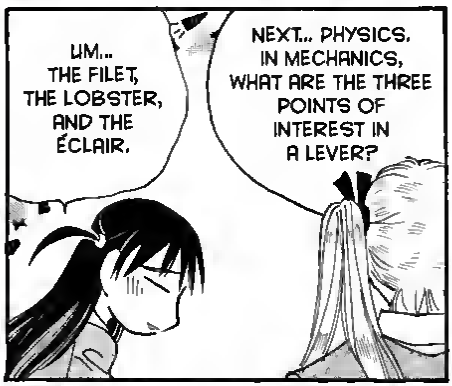
YES, I'M DOING MY BEST!
AH! RYÛ-SENSEI!
GWOOGH
YOUR IDIOCY WILL BE LAID BARE FOR THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY TO SEE!!


IT'S THE FINAL SPURT OF STUDYING.
EVERY-BODY'S WORKING REALLY HARD, HUH?

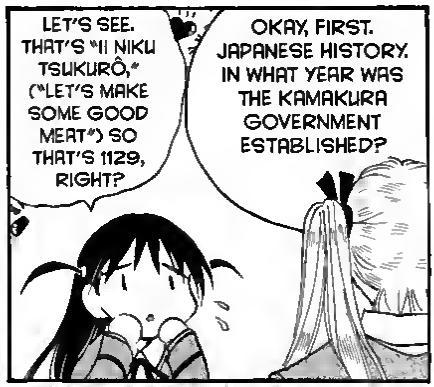

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.
IT'S LIKE HER SOUL HAS COMPLETELY LEFT HER BODY.
DUHHHH
ぽけ～
ON THE OTHER HAND...

THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!! IF I'M HELD BACK A YEAR, I CAN'T BE CLOSE TO KARASUMA-KUN ANYMORE!!
..... NO!!
IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'M SURE TO BE HELD BACK!
HEY!! CALM DOWN, TSUKAMOTO!!
BOFF ぽか
BOFF ぽかっ
WHY DID I ONLY THINK OF IT NOW?! WHY AM I SUCH AN IDIOT?!
BAD ME!! BAD ME!!
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. WE HAVE DIRECT COUNTERMEASURES THAT WE CAN TAKE.
I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, WE'LL ALL HAVE TO STUDY TOGETHER.
HEY, DON'T CRY! LET'S GET EVERYBODY TO THE NEXT GRADE TOGETHER, HUH?
TH-THANK YOU, EVERY-BODY!!


JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!!
TOMORROW'S TESTS ARE IN JAPANESE HISTORY AND PHYSICS. SO WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME EASY QUESTIONS ON THOSE SUBJECTS. SOLVE THEM, OKAY?

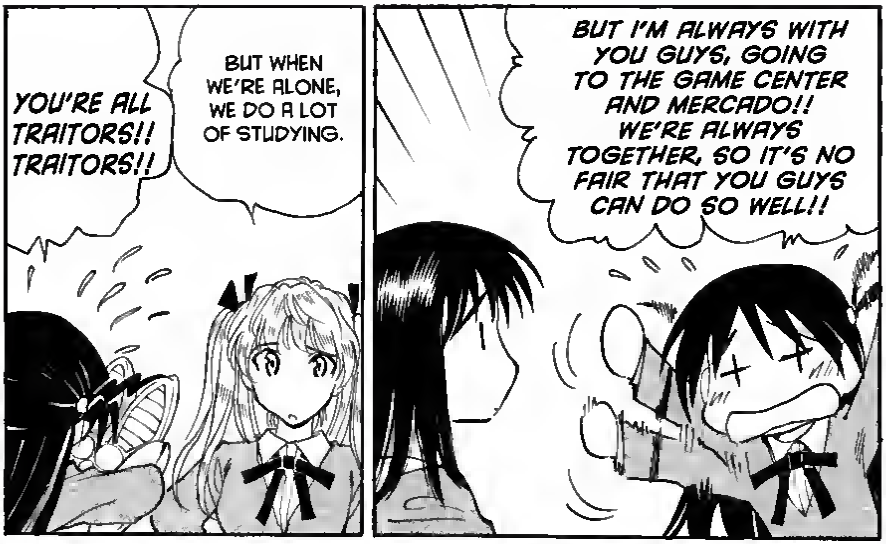


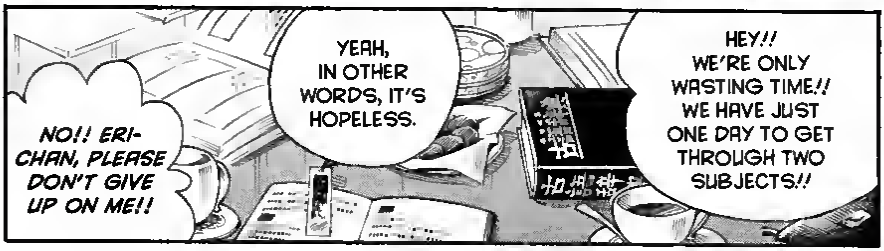

The answer is the fulcrum, the load, and the effort.


LET'S SEE. THAT'S "II NIKU TSUKURÔ," ("LET'S MAKE SOME GOOD MEAT") SO THAT'S 1129, RIGHT?
OKAY, FIRST. JAPANESE HISTORY. IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE KAMAKURA GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED?

The actual mnemonic is "i kuni tsukuro" ("let's make a good country") or 1192.

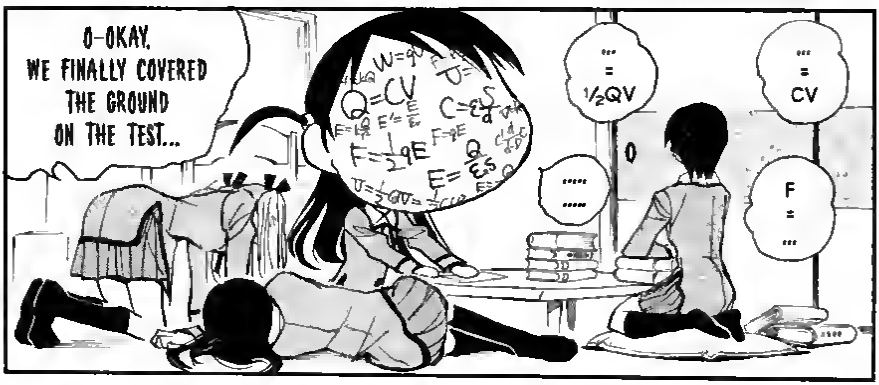
LET'S SEE... YESTERDAY, I...
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN STUDYING UP UNTIL NOW, ANYWAY?
HERE I GO!!
I FELT MUCH BETTER AFTER THAT, SO I WENT HOME AND STARTED STUDYING...
BUT BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I WAS FAST ASLEEP.
...WENT TO THE LIBRARY TO STUDY.
AND BEFORE LONG, I WAS FAST ASLEEP.
THIS TEA IS REALLY DELICIOUS!
THAT REINVIGORATED ME, SO I SAT DOWN DETERMINED TO STUDY!
BUT WHEN I THOUGHT OF STUDYING JAPANESE HISTORY, I COULD ONLY THINK OF EDO-PERIOD TV SHOWS, SO I WATCHED THE "THREE TO GET KILLED" MANGOKU SPECIAL.
STARRE
.....
.....
HUH? SO WHEN DID I ACTUALLY STUDY...?
DO YOU GUYS KNOW?


YOU'RE ALL TRAITORS!! TRAITORS!!
BUT WHEN WE'RE ALONE, WE DO A LOT OF STUDYING.
BUT I'M ALWAYS WITH YOU GUYS, GOING TO THE GAME CENTER AND MERCADO!! WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER, SO IT'S NO FAIR THAT YOU GUYS CAN DO SO WELL!!

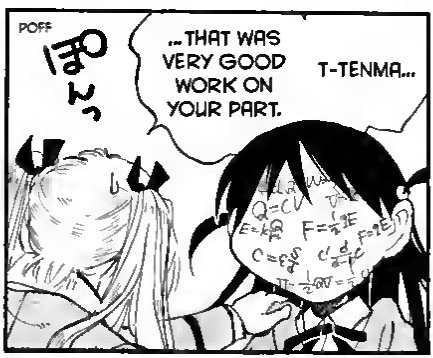

NO!! ERI-CHAN, PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP ON ME!!
YEAH, IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S HOPELESS.
HEY!! WE'RE ONLY WASTING TIME!! WE HAVE JUST ONE DAY TO GET THROUGH TWO SUBJECTS!!

WE CAN NARROW DOWN HISTORY TO A FEW SELECT, TESTABLE FACTS, SO FOR NOW, LET'S TEACH HER PHYSICS.
SAY, AKIRA, WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BEST?
I STILL HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE WITH JUST ONE NIGHT.
ANYWAY, WE'LL SAVE HISTORY, WHICH IS ALL MEMORIZA-TION, FOR AFTER. WE'LL TACKLE PHYSICS FIRST.
BUT SCIENCE IS HARDEST WHEN A PERSON GETS SLEEPY.

PRE-TEST EMERGENCY COUNTERMEASURES, ROUND FORTY-THREE, THREE HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES INTO THE OPERATION...


O-OKAY. WE FINALLY COVERED THE GROUND ON THE TEST...
...
=
½QV
...
=
CV
F
=
...

NOOO!! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!! DON'T EVEN JOKE THAT YOU WANT TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY!!
POP
すぽん
POP
すぽん
PSHHH
プシュー

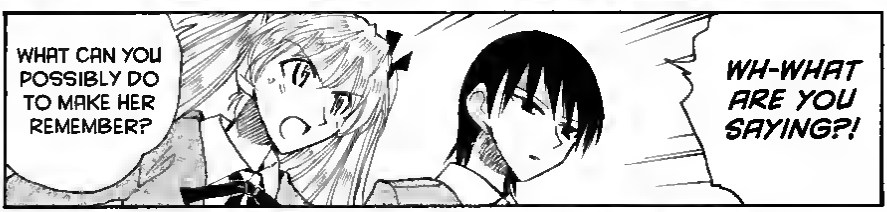

POFF
ぽんっ
...THAT WAS VERY GOOD WORK ON YOUR PART.
T-TENMA...

IF WE STUFF MORE STUFF IN THERE, HER BRAIN WILL HAVE A BLOWOUT.
BUT EVEN SO, WE CAN'T USE MNE-MONICS ON HER NOW.

TSUKAMOTO, YOU TOOK JAPANESE HISTORY AS YOUR ELECTIVE, RIGHT?
NEXT IS HISTORY, HUH?

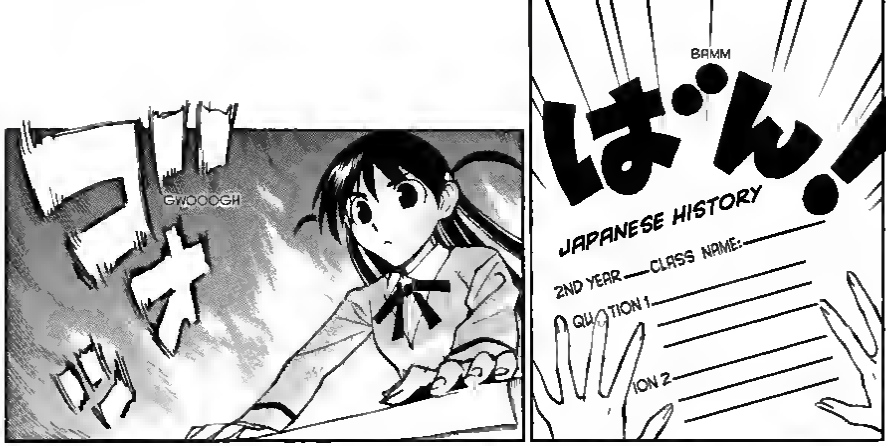
.....IF SO, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY.

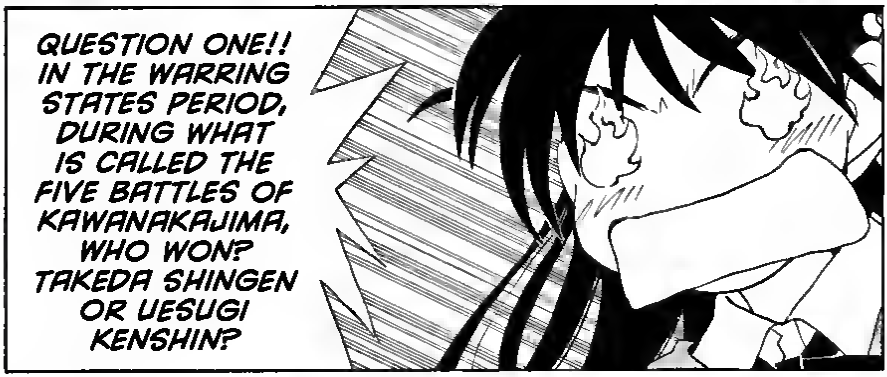
ONLY ONE WAY THAT WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT TSUKAMOTO MEMORIZES THE MATERIAL AND CLEARS PASSING GRADES ON THE EXAMS!!

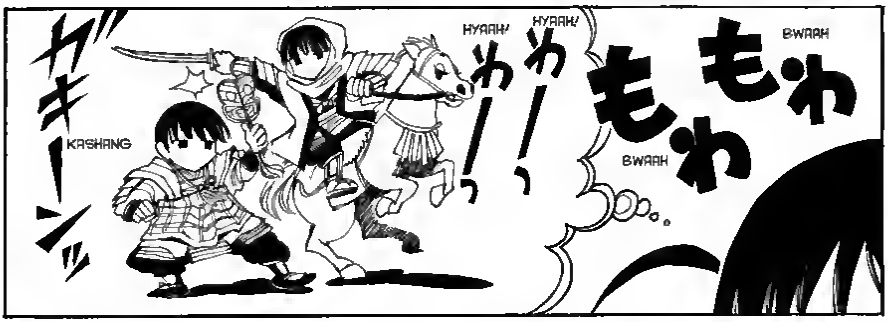

WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO TO MAKE HER REMEMBER?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

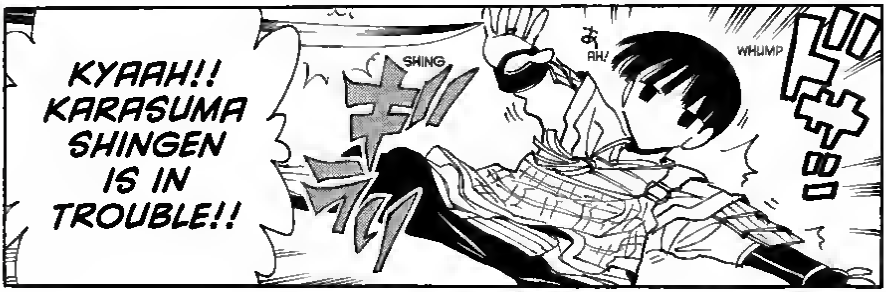
THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT IS TO TAKE THE NAMES, YEARS, AND INCIDENTS OF HISTORY AND RELATE THEM ALL TO THE MAN SHE LOVES!!
HMM... IT ISN'T EASY FOR ME TO EXPLAIN...
QUIT WITH THE CRYPTIC SPEECH!! HOW DO WE TEACH HER?!

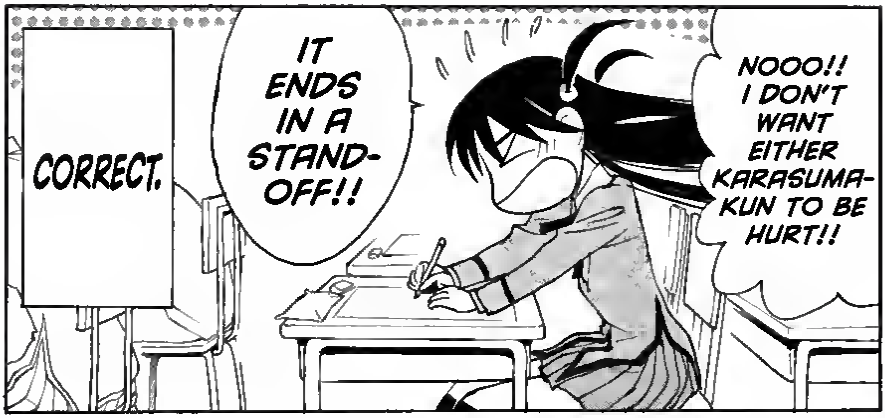
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!! IT ISN'T AS IF I STUDY THAT WAY!!
THAT'S WHY IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO EXPLAIN!!
AND WHAT'S WITH THOSE LOOKS?!
EHH? MIKOTO, THAT'S CUTE...♥
WHOA!! TSUKAMOTO IS INTO IT!!
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST!!
EH...?
I'LL DO IT, MIKO-CHAN...
NEE-SAN, YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO STUDY...
ALL RIGHT!! WE'LL SPEND ALL NIGHT ON THIS IF WE HAVE TO!! YAKUMO, DINNER IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!
THE NEXT DAY, SECOND DAY OF FINALS...

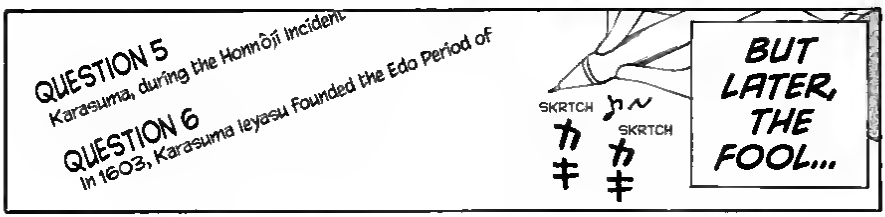

GWOOOGH
BAMM
ばん!
JAPANESE HISTORY
2ND YEAR — CLASS NAME:
QUESTION 1
QUESTION 2

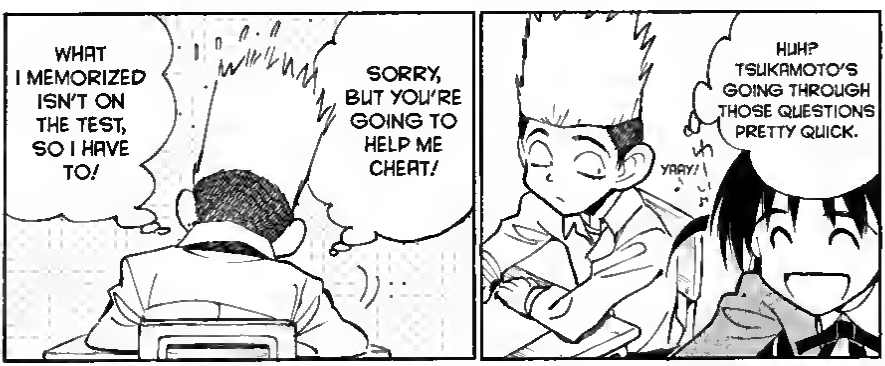

QUESTION ONE!! IN THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, DURING WHAT IS CALLED THE FIVE BATTLES OF KAWANAKAJIMA, WHO WON? TAKEDA SHINGEN OR UESUGI KENSHIN?


KASHANG
HYAAH!
HYAAH!
BWAAH
BWAAH


KYAAH!! KARASUMA SHINGEN IS IN TROUBLE!!
SHING
AH!
WHUMP


CORRECT.
IT ENDS IN A STAND-OFF!!
NOOO!! I DON'T WANT EITHER KARASUMA-KUN TO BE HURT!!

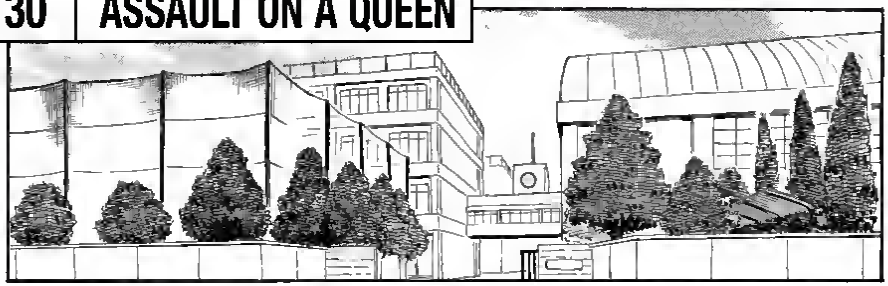

QUESTION 5
Karasuma, during the Honnôji Incident
QUESTION 6
In 1603, Karasuma Ieyasu Founded the Edo Period of
SKRTCH
カキ
SKRTCH
カキ
BUT LATER, THE FOOL...

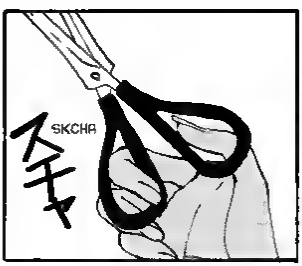

WHAT I MEMORIZED ISN'T ON THE TEST, SO I HAVE TO!
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME CHEAT!
HUH? TSUKAMOTO'S GOING THROUGH THOSE QUESTIONS PRETTY QUICK.
YAAY!

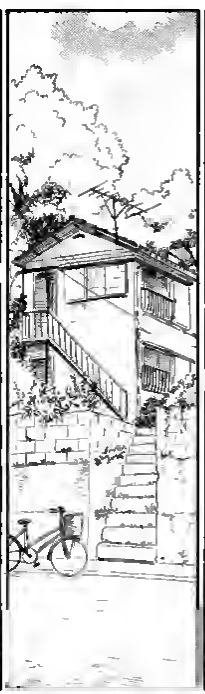
SHE REALIZED HER MISTAKES AT THE LAST MINUTE AND CORRECTED THEM.
PASSED!!
THANK YOU, KARASUMA-KUN♡
Y-YOU'RE KIDDING!! WHY?!!
AND YOSHIDAYAMA WAS THE CLASS DUNCE WITH RED MARKS ALL OVER HIS JAPANESE HISTORY EXAM!!
AH HA HA HA!!
ざまはは!!

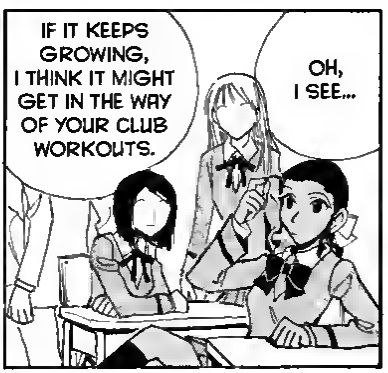
# 140 · · · · · · · · · Fin

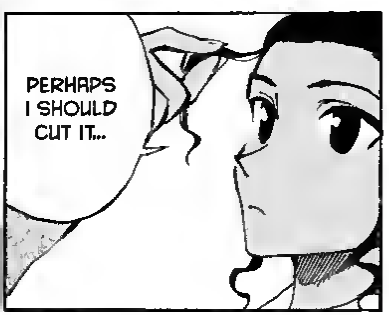
# ♭30 ASSAULT ON A QUEEN









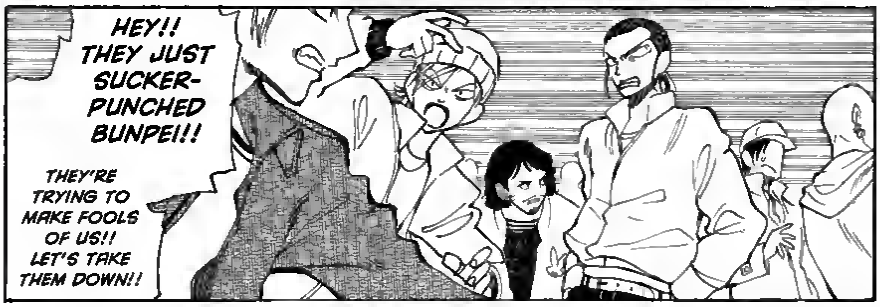
OH, NO... I HAVE CUT TOO MUCH...!
WHAT WILL I DO?!
PANIC PANIC
オロオロ
オロオロ
PANIC PANIC
WHAT WILL I DO?!
THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL...
EHH? YOU TRIED TO CUT IT YOURSELF?
I DECIDED TO CUT MY HAIR, BUT I HAVE MADE A MISTAKE...
UM... THEN WE SHOULD GO TO A BEAUTY SHOP!
WHAT CAN WE DO?
ICHI JÔ!
ICHI JÔ!
EH...?

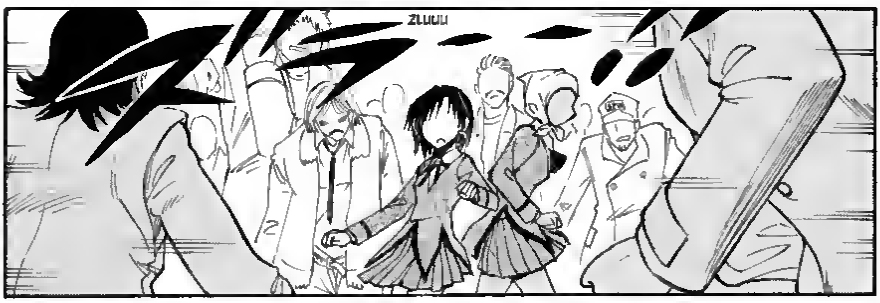
AW, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!! THEY'RE GOOD WITH HAIR!
HM?
EH? B-BUT THAT PLACE...
I THINK I CAN RECOMMEND HAIR SALON NOWBIRD.
OH! THE FEEL IS VERY NICE!
GSHH
わしゃわしゃ
GSHH
!!
HO!! YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN, I SEE!!
YO!

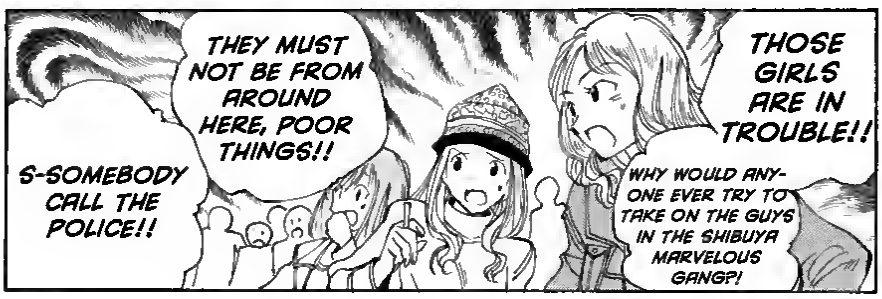
WHANG
GYAAN!!
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
FIGURE IT OUT FROM THE NAME OF THE SHOP!! THIS IS MY FAMILY'S PLACE!!
CURSE YOU!! HANDS OFF ME!! WE ARE GOING, ICHI JÔ!!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
YOU CAN'T KEEP HIDING YOUR HAIR FOREVER.
HAHH
HAHH
THAT WAS A VERY BAD EXPERIENCE...
DAMMIT!! IN ANY CASE, WE MUST LEAVE THIS TOWN!!
LEAVE? BUT WHERE?
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME HERE. THERE MUST BE SOME WAY...
HM... MAYBE WE CAN GET YOUR HAIR CUT SOME-PLACE FAR AWAY?
SHK
IT IS HARRY! HIDE!!

ICHI JÔ! WHERE DO GIRLS NORMALLY GET THEIR HAIR CUT?
EHH...?! U-UM... SH-SHIBUYA, I GUESS...
ALL RIGHT!! THEN WE ARE GOING TO SHIBUYA!! LEAD ME THERE!!
EHH?! YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?!
SHIBUYA: A SCRAMBLE INTERSECTION.
MURMUR MURMUR
BE-BEEP
GRRRN
MURMUR MURMUR
ぽっかーん
POKAAAAN
HEY, LADY! HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
GRR!!
MURDER!!
TAP
ポン
GSHING
S-SORRY!! I'VE HARDLY EVER BEEN TO SHIBUYA IN MY LIFE!!
WHAT?!
U-UM... YEAH, M-MAYBE THERE IS ONE...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THESE CROWDS?! IS TODAY A FESTIVAL OR SOMETHING?!
WHRL WHRL

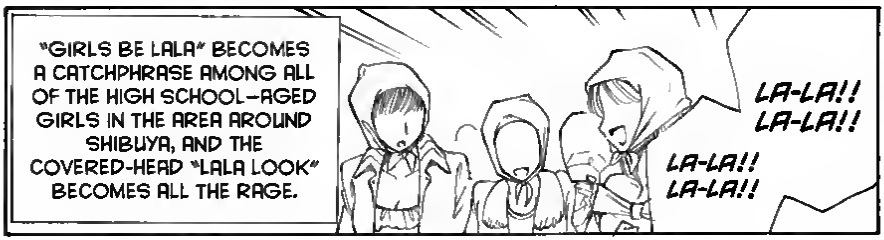
DOKAMM
GWAAH !!
HMPH!!


HEY!! THEY JUST SUCKER-PUNCHED BUNPEI!!!
THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE FOOLS OF US!! LET'S TAKE THEM DOWN!!

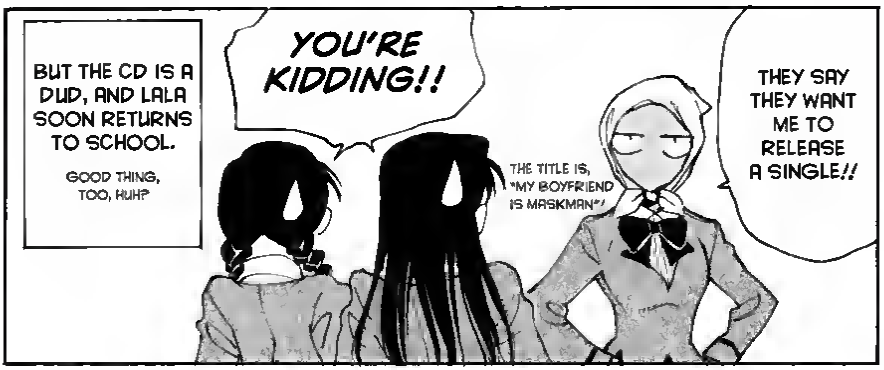

ZLUUU


S-SOMEBODY CALL THE POLICE!!
THEY MUST NOT BE FROM AROUND HERE, POOR THINGS!!
THOSE GIRLS ARE IN TROUBLE!!
WHY WOULD ANY-ONE EVER TRY TO TAKE ON THE GUYS IN THE SHIBUYA MARVELOUS GANG?!

UWAAAH!! I DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING ANYMORE!!
ICHI JÔ!! IS THIS WHAT SHIBUYA CALLS A FESTIVAL?!
わあっ!!
WAAAH!
GET 'EM!!
I-I COULD BECOME A FAN OF THOSE TWO...
THOSE PUNKS ARE FALLING LIKE CUT HAIR IN A BEAUTY SHOP!!
OH, NO!! WAIT!! THEY'RE TAKING DOWN ALL OF THE GANG MEMBERS!!
HUH?!
YRRRRRY
YOU GIRLS ARE INCREDIBLE!! THE BEST!!
WAY TO GO! WAY TO GO!


"GIRLS BE LALA" BECOMES A CATCHPHRASE AMONG ALL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL-AGED GIRLS IN THE AREA AROUND SHIBUYA, AND THE COVERED-HEAD "LALA LOOK" BECOMES ALL THE RAGE.
LA-LA!! LA-LA!!
LA-LA!! LA-LA!!

AND IN ONLY A WEEK, SHE IS FOUND ON ADVERTISING FOR LINES OF COSMETICS AND APPAREL.
Lala
BUSINESSES START TAKING NOTICE OF WOMEN WHO ARE BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG.


BUT THE CD IS A DUD, AND LALA SOON RETURNS TO SCHOOL.
GOOD THING, TOO, HUH?
YOU'RE KIDDING!!
THE TITLE IS, "MY BOYFRIEND IS MASKMAN"!
THEY SAY THEY WANT ME TO RELEASE A SINGLE!!

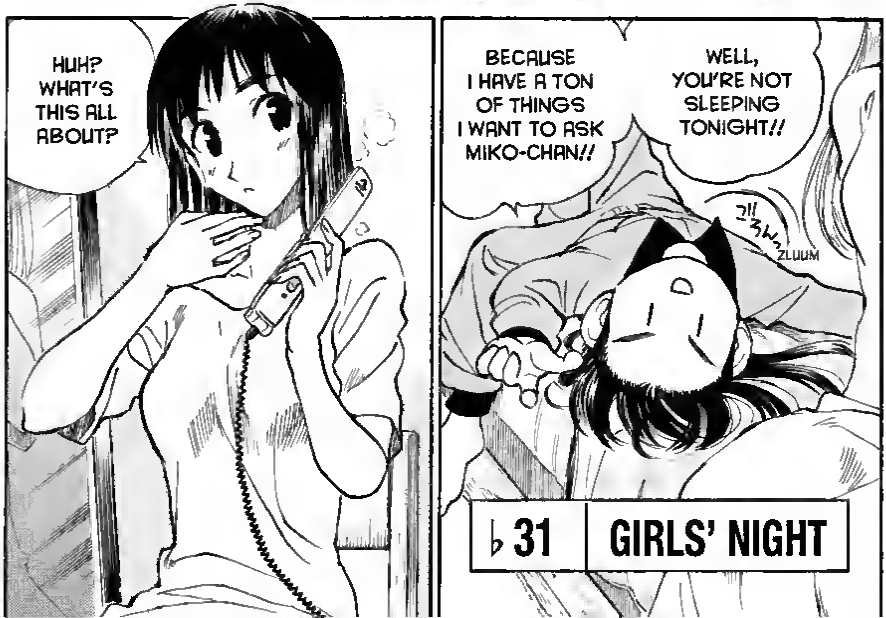


The Flip-Side Song Is Named "Fly Azteca."

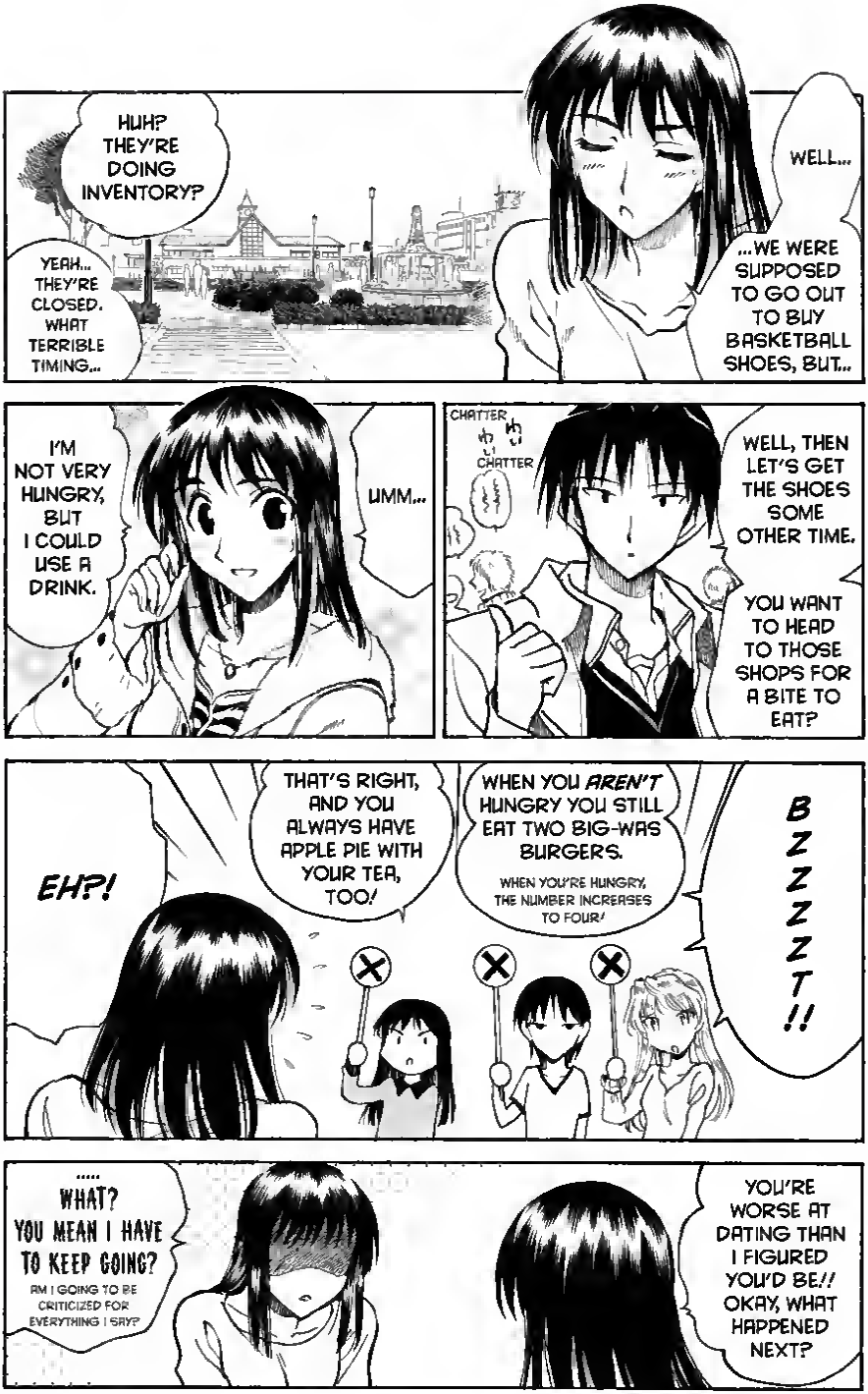
AHH...! THAT FELT GREAT!!

ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES USE IT AFTER THE WORK IS DONE.
MIKO-CHAN, YOUR BATH IS HUGE!!

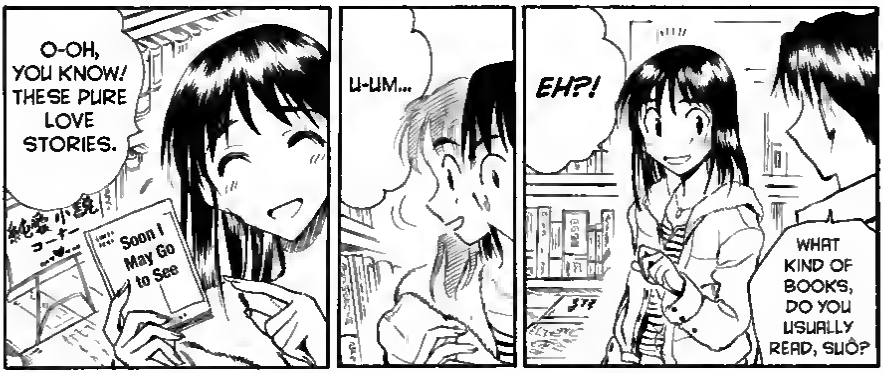
TRUE. AND NOW THAT FINALS ARE OVER, WE CAN RELAX.
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD A PAJAMA PARTY.

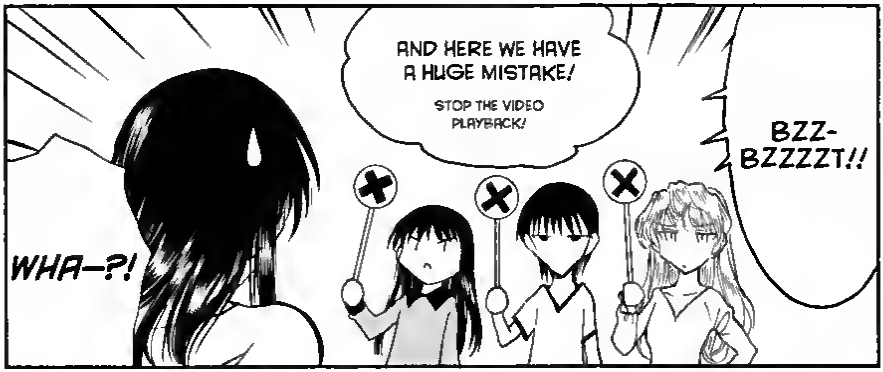

HUH? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
BECAUSE I HAVE A TON OF THINGS I WANT TO ASK MIKO-CHAN!!
WELL, YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING TONIGHT!!
ZLUUM
♭31 GIRLS' NIGHT

WHA—?!
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US, AND LEAVE NO DETAIL OUT!!
WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DATE THAT ASÔ-KUN PROMISED YOU DURING THE BASKETBALL PARTY?!
D-DON'T GO MAKING ASSUMPTIONS!!
YOU BOTH WENT TO BUY SNEAKERS, RIGHT?
EXACTLY!! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
IT'S OKAY!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM US!!
THAT'S THE WAY, TENMA! HIT HER WHERE IT COUNTS!!
H-HE IS NOT!!
I MEAN, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ASÔ-KUN IS REALLY INTERESTED IN YOU!!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN!! THAT WON'T DO AT ALL!!
W-WE ONLY WENT SHOPPING TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL!!
WELL, MIKO-CHAN?!
BUT YOU GET THE FEELING THAT YOU CAN DEPEND ON HIM.
I'D SAY SO.
ASÔ-KUN SEEMS LIKE A LATE BLOOMER WHERE WOMEN ARE CONCERNED, HUH?

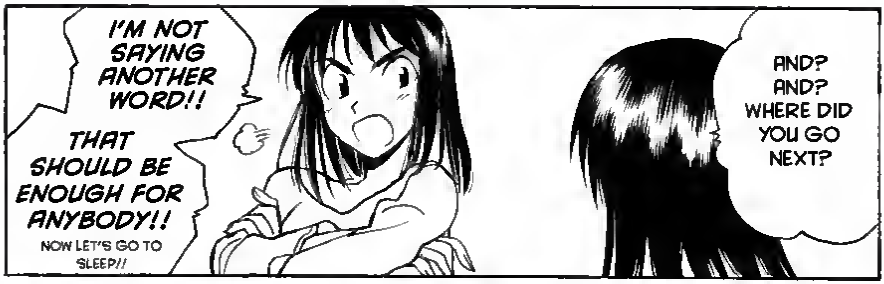

HUH? THEY'RE DOING INVENTORY?
YEAH... THEY'RE CLOSED. WHAT TERRIBLE TIMING...
WELL...
...WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO OUT TO BUY BASKETBALL SHOES, BUT...
I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY, BUT I COULD USE A DRINK.
UMM...
CHATTER
CHATTER
WELL, THEN LET'S GET THE SHOES SOME OTHER TIME.
YOU WANT TO HEAD TO THOSE SHOPS FOR A BITE TO EAT?
EH?!
THAT'S RIGHT, AND YOU ALWAYS HAVE APPLE PIE WITH YOUR TEA, TOO!
WHEN YOU *AREN'T* HUNGRY YOU STILL EAT TWO BIG-WAS BURGERS.
WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY, THE NUMBER INCREASES TO FOUR!
BZZZZT!!
..... WHAT? YOU MEAN I HAVE TO KEEP GOING?
AM I GOING TO BE CRITICIZED FOR EVERYTHING I SAY?
YOU'RE WORSE AT DATING THAN I FIGURED YOU'D BE!! OKAY, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

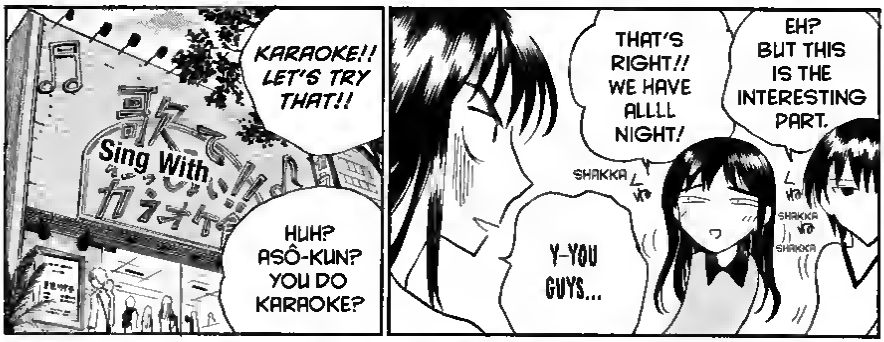
TATUYA
DO YOU MIND IF I PICK UP WEEKLY BASKETBALL?
YOU REALLY LOVE THAT SPORT, DON'T YOU?
AFTER THAT, WE HEADED TO A BOOK-STORE.

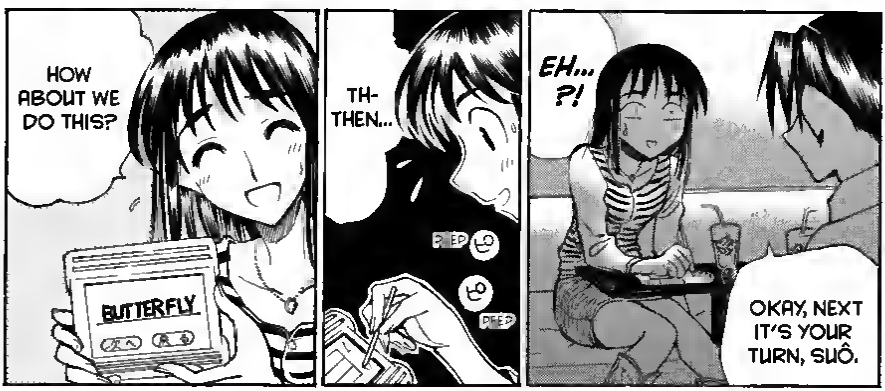

O-OH, YOU KNOW! THESE PURE LOVE STORIES.
純愛小説コーナー
Soon I May Go to See
U-UM...
EH?!
WHAT KIND OF BOOKS, DO YOU USUALLY READ, SUÔ?


AND HERE WE HAVE A HUGE MISTAKE!
STOP THE VIDEO PLAYBACK!
BZZ-BZZZZT!!
WHA—?!

I-I'M STILL JUST IN THE PROCESS OF READING IT!!
AND WHAT'S THIS "VIDEO PLAYBACK"?
YOU WERE SOUND ASLEEP WITHIN TEN MINUTES!
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU TRIED TO READ JIKO-CHÛ!
JUST LOOK AT YOUR BOOKSHELF. IT'S NOTHING BUT MARTIAL-ARTS MAGAZINES!
YOU SHOULDN'T LIE, YOU KNOW!


I'M NOT SAYING ANOTHER WORD!!
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ANYBODY!!
NOW LET'S GO TO SLEEP!!
AND? AND? WHERE DID YOU GO NEXT?


KARAOKE!! LET'S TRY THAT!!
Sing With
HUH? ASÔ-KUN? YOU DO KARAOKE?
Y-YOU GUYS...
THAT'S RIGHT!! WE HAVE ALLLL NIGHT!
EH? BUT THIS IS THE INTERESTING PART.
SHAKKA
SHAKKA
SHAKKA

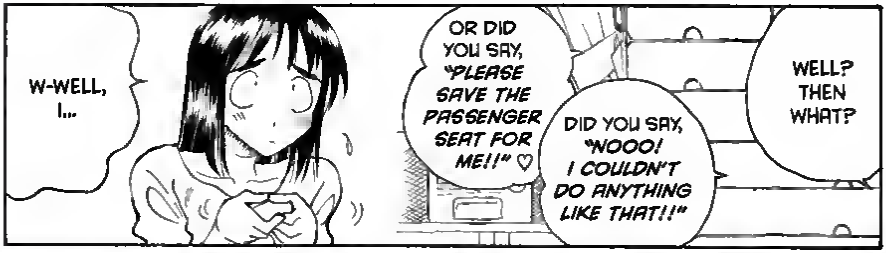

HOW ABOUT WE DO THIS?
BUTTERFLY
TH-THEN...
PEEP
PEEP
EH...?!
OKAY, NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN, SUÔ.

HM... SO YOU LISTEN TO WESTERN MUSIC?
Y-YEAH, I DO... A LITTLE.
EH?
AH... Y-YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT.
ON
BUTTERFLY?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT. IS IT A WESTERN SONG?

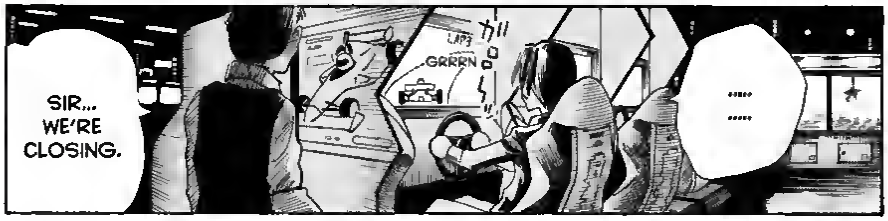
B-BUT HOW COULD I TELL HIM THAT?!
THAT ISN'T WESTERN MUSIC! IT'S CHÔNO'S THEME MUSIC WHEN HE ENTERS THE RING!!
IN PRO WRESTLING!!
BZZ-BZZ-BZZZT!!!
URK! THERE'S NO WAY I'D SING!
SO YOU SANG IT IN FRONT OF ASÔ-KUN?
YOU EVEN HAD ME LEARN ALL OF THE MOVES TO THE SONG!
BUT I CAN'T COMPETE WITH YOU, MIKO-CHAN!
YOU ALWAYS BELT OUT A FULL-CHORUS ROUND OF BUTTERFLY.
AN EVEN WORSE BZZ-BZZ-BZZZT!!
THEN YOU GUYS SING IT!!
COME ON!!
DU-EE-AH DU-EEEE-AH!
.....
.....
ALL RIGHT, GO ON.
SIGH! THIS IS NO GOOD! THERE'S ZERO POSSIBILITY OF LOVE GROWING THIS WAY.

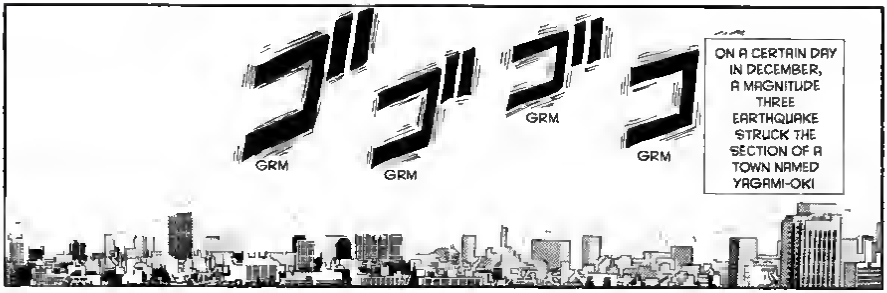
AH! LET'S GO OVER THERE!! OVER THERE!!
MICOTO 984500
HM?
FINALLY, WE WENT TO A GAME CENTER.
THE ONE WE ALWAYS GO TO TO GET OUR PHOTO STICKERS.
QUIT ASKING QUESTIONS YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO!!
THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER YOU TELLING US THAT NEXT TIME YOU WERE GOING TO BREAK YOUR RECORD.
YOU'RE THE ABSOLUTE CHAMP! WHAT A WASTE!
HUH? WHY'D YOU HIDE THE KICK MACHINE FROM HIM?
ASÔ SUGGESTED WE PLAY A RACING GAME.
THEN...
IN IT, I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL TO PLACES I'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE.
WHEN I GRADUATE, I WANT TO BUY A CAR.
HM? I DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE?
NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT...
HUH? ASÔ, YOU PLAY THESE SORTS OF GAMES?

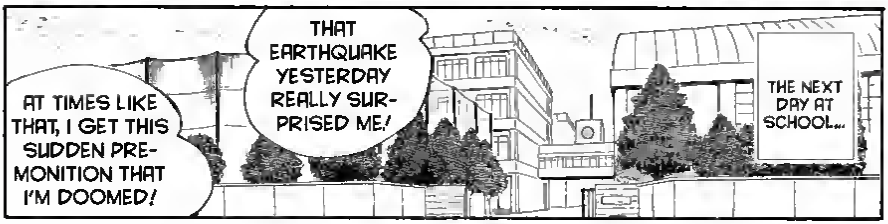
WE GRADUATE IN ONLY ONE YEAR AND A FEW MONTHS.
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH YOU AND ME THEN...

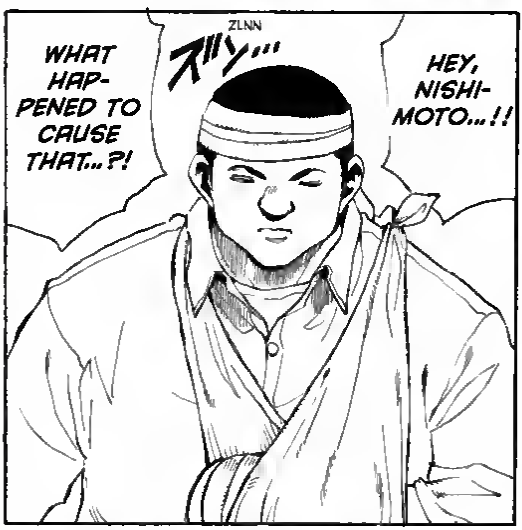

W-WELL, I...
OR DID YOU SAY, "PLEASE SAVE THE PASSENGER SEAT FOR ME!!" ♡
DID YOU SAY, "NOOO! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!"
WELL? THEN WHAT?

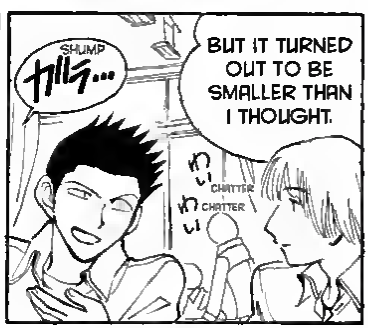
CORRECT ANSWER!
...LEFT HIM IN THE DUST.
BLOWING AWAY THE GAME'S TOP SCORE.

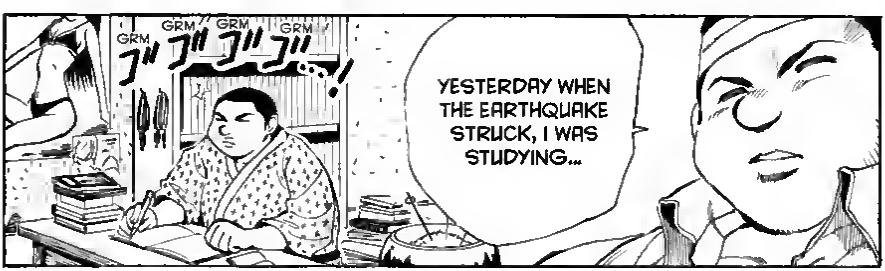

SIR... WE'RE CLOSING.
GRRRN
.....
.....





AT TIMES LIKE THAT, I GET THIS SUDDEN PRE-MONITION THAT I'M DOOMED!
THAT EARTHQUAKE YESTERDAY REALLY SUR-PRISED ME!
THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL...

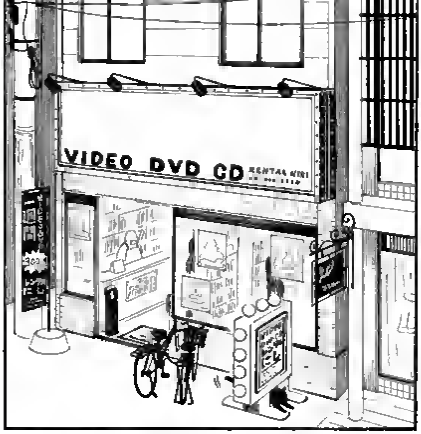


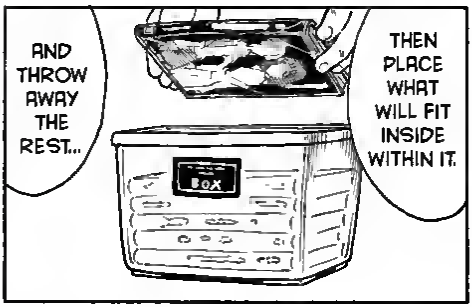


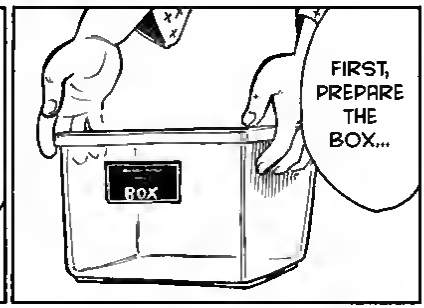

# ♭32 | A BETTER TOMORROW

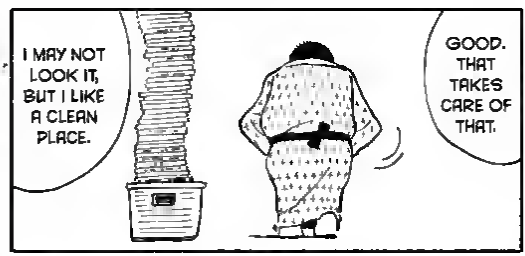
I DIDN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME/ THOSE ITEMS WERE WHAT WAS IMPORTANT!/
GAMP
DMP
THE FIRST THING I DID WAS TO RUSH TO PROTECT THE REFERENCE WORKS ON MY BOOK-SHELF.
Y-YOU'RE ONE INCREDIBLE GUY...!!
...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT STILL...
GASH
GASH!/
DON'T BE RUDE/ ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF MY 500 WORKS? MY VERY SOUL?/
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THAT? I BUY TEN BOOKS A WEEK/
IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEVER CLEAN UP!/
BESIDES, WERE THEY REALLY "REFERENCE" WORKS?
IT'S SIMPLE/ I KEEP A BOX AND PUT THE BOOKS I'M WORKING ON IN THERE. WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH THEM, I DISPOSE OF THEM. IF YOU CAN'T CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF, THEN I'LL COME OVER ON SUNDAY AND HELP OUT.
HO? WITH ALL THOSE BOOKS, HOW DO YOU STORE THEM ALL?

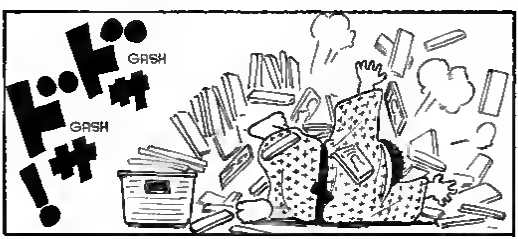

VIDEO DVD CD

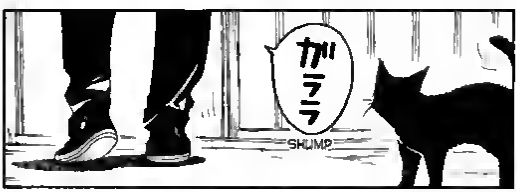
EWW! YOU'RE THE WORST! I WISH THE EARTHQUAKE HAD CRUSHED YOU!!
NO, I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
THEY'RE NOT FOR FEMALE EYES

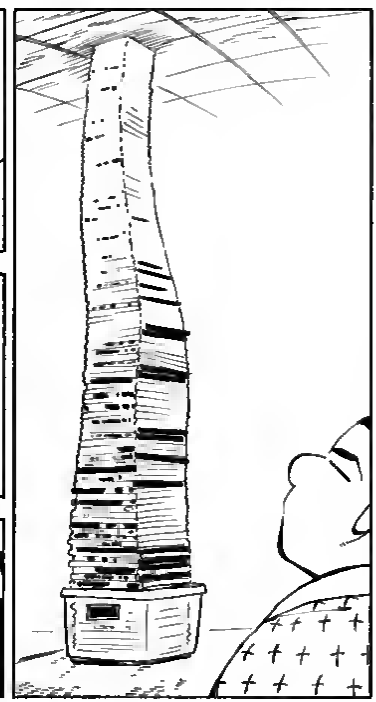

AND THROW AWAY THE REST...
THEN PLACE WHAT WILL FIT INSIDE WITHIN IT.
BOX


FIRST, PREPARE THE BOX...
BOX


I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I LIKE A CLEAN PLACE.
GOOD. THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT.


GASH
GASH

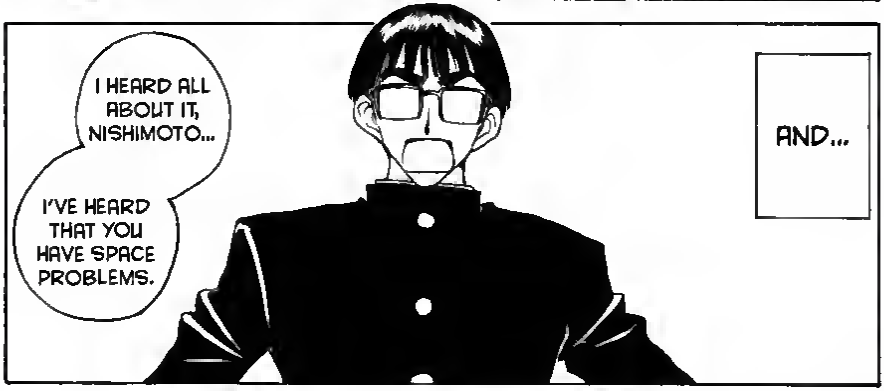

ガラ
SHUMP

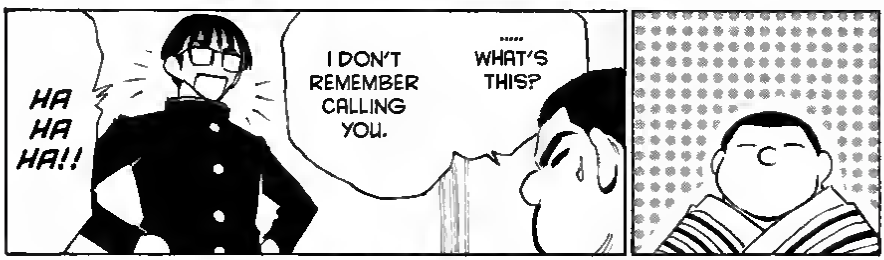


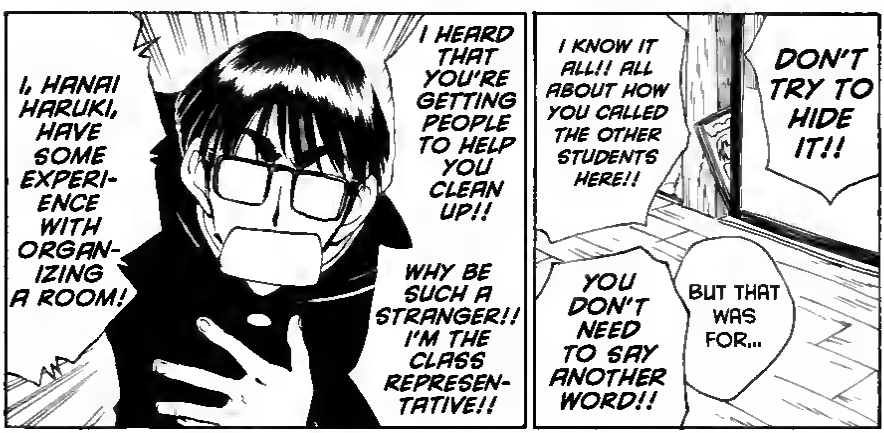
SO, YOU'VE DECIDED TO DO AWAY WITH THIS?
THAT'S A HUGE COLLECTION!
YO, NISHIMOTO!
WHY'D YOU CALL ME OVER HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU SEE... I DON'T NEED THIS STUFF.
THIS IS FROM 1984! BEFORE I WAS BORN!
BUT I'VE GOT A DATE TONIGHT, AND...
KSHNK
JUST LOOK AT THIS!!
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, SERGEANT IMADORI!!!
THE BRILLIANCE OF THIS MOMENT IS WHY I COULD NOT THROW IT AWAY.
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THIS...
OHHHH!!
OH ...
WHAT? YEAH, I KNEW IT'D BE BORING.
THIS POINT HERE.
DON'T BE SO HASTY!
HASTE MAKES WASTE!

YES. BE VERY CAREFUL IN HOW YOU HANDLE THEM.
I, SERGEANT IMADORI, WILL HEREBY RESCUE THESE MATERIALS AND RETURN TO BASE!
THAT'S NISHIMOTO THE BUDDHA FOR YOU. I'VE GOT RENEWED RESPECT.
Rental Nishimoto VIDEO DVD CD
.....
.....
YOU CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE, YOSHIDAYAMA JIRÔ!!
HUH? THAT WAS IMADORI!
WHAT BUSINESS DID HE HAVE AT NISHI-MOTO'S?
Y-YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT...
I WANTED TO SEE TAE-CHAN...
IT'S SIMPLE.
I CAN SMELL THE FRAGRANCE OF DISINFECTANT AND CHANELLE POISON ALL OVER YOUR BODY. I COULD TELL WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
WHA—?! HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
YES! ONCE SPOKEN, MY WORD IS LAW!!
...THE "SECRET HEALTH OFFICE" SERIES!!
TH-THIS IS...
C-CAN I REALLY HAVE THEM?!
THEN THIS WILL BE PERFECT FOR YOU.

ONLY THREE PER PERSON!
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO SELL THEM, TRAINEE HANAI!
U-UM... IF THEY'RE IN THE WAY, I COULD TAKE THEM ALL WITH ME.
AND THUS, NISHIMOTO'S COLLECTION WAS SAFELY SPREAD FAR AND WIDE.


I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT, NISHIMOTO...
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE SPACE PROBLEMS.
AND...


HA HA HA!!
I DON'T REMEMBER CALLING YOU.
..... WHAT'S THIS?


I, HANAI HARUKI, HAVE SOME EXPERI-ENCE WITH ORGAN-IZING A ROOM!
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE GETTING PEOPLE TO HELP YOU CLEAN UP!!
WHY BE SUCH A STRANGER!! I'M THE CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVE!!
I KNOW IT ALL!! ALL ABOUT HOW YOU CALLED THE OTHER STUDENTS HERE!!
DON'T TRY TO HIDE IT!!
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANOTHER WORD!!
BUT THAT WAS FOR...

AHH!! NO!! GIVE THOSE BACK!!
HRRN!! LET GO OF ME!!
THIS IS BEING CONFISCATED RIGHT NOW!!
LOOK AT THIS TRASH!!
VERY WELL, LET'S START!!
WELL, HANAI WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND PUT A STOP TO IT!!
HE'S SPREADING THIS FILTH THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CLASS!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM!!
FOR PITY'S SAKE!!
IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE IF I WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT NOW!
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE!
WHOA!!
GRRN
NO MATTER WHAT FILTH I'M FORCED TO CARRY, MY MOTIVES ARE AS PURE AS THE MORNING SUN!!
NO! I HAVE NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT!!
AH! OR IF I WAS CAUGHT BY THE POLICE...
B-BMP
B-BMP

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 12.
VISIT DELREYMANGA.COM
FOR RELEASE INFORMATION.

Sees Someone She Hasn't Seen in a Long Time.

**Fin**

**Note: It Was Lala.**

# About the Creator

Jin Kobayashi was born in Tokyo. *School Rumble* is his first manga series. He has answered these questions from his fans:

***What is your hobby?***
Basketball

***Which manga inspired you to become a creator?***
*Dragon Ball*

***Which character in your manga do you like best?***
Kenji Harima

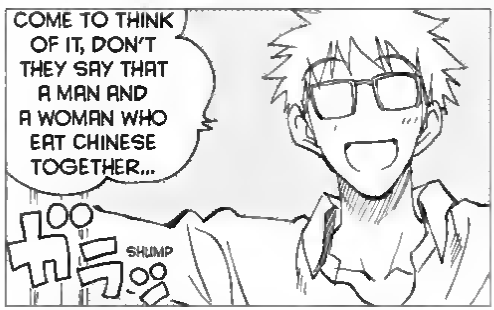
***What type of manga do you want to create in the future?***
Action

***Name one book, piece of music, or movie you like.***
The Indiana Jones series

# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

### A man and a woman eating Chinese food together, page 27



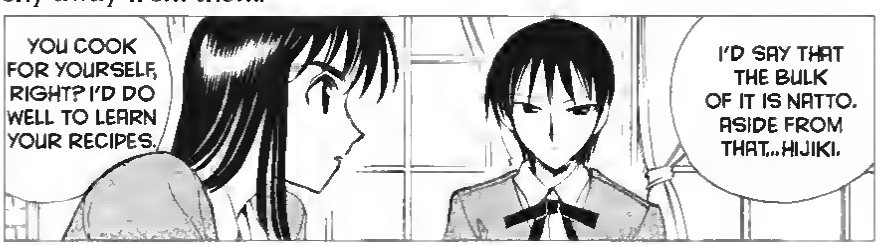

There is a saying that a man and a woman eating *yakiniku* (Korean barbecue) together must have a very tight relationship. That's because there is a lot of garlic in *yakiniku*, and if a man or woman doesn't mind the smell of garlic on their partner, they must be very close. Tani-sensei is intentionally or unintentionally mistaking Chinese food for *yakiniku* in his statement.

### Kôhai, page 29

As explained in the honorifics section, older students or more experienced employees in a workplace are sempai, and their younger, less experienced counterparts are kôhai. Sempai are supposed to guide their kôhai, and the kôhai in turn are supposed to respect their sempai. This makes for sempai who have very parental feelings for their kôhai.

### *Natto* and *hijiki*, page 42

Both *natto*, a viscous bean-based snack, and *hijiki*, a type of edible seaweed, are considered low-cost, healthy foods in the Japanese diet. They are thought to be very Japanese, since most foreigners shy away from them.



### *Beneath the Wheel*, page 51

*Beneath the Wheel* is German author Hermann Hesse's most popular book in Japan. It tells the story of a gifted young man who is sent into a too-strict school system that rewards his achievements with harder and more impersonal studies. He then meets a rebellious poet who helps him begin to see that there may be more to life than academics and testing. But the soul-crushing school environment has already done its damage on the young main character. It is an indictment of the overly strict turn-of-the-20th-century German school system, but Japanese readers seem to relate to its message.

### Penne pasta, page 52

Tenma got it right for a change. Penne means "pen" in Italian. The pasta is tube-shaped and comes to a point as if it were a quill pen.

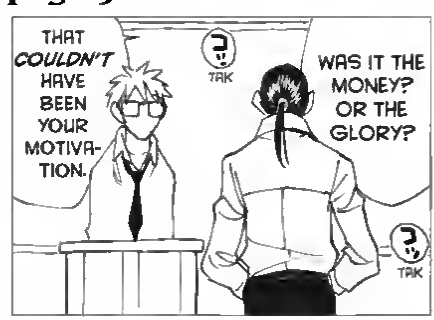
### *Arrabbiata*, page 53

Arrabbiata has nothing to do with Arabia. It means "angry" in Italian, and the dish is called that because the Roman penne pasta recipe comes out very hot and spicy.

### *Yakisoba* and G-pen, page 53

*Yakisoba* is a fried noodle dish mixed with meats and vegetables. A G-pen is a manga artist's quill pen.

### Teachers: Money? Glory?, page 58



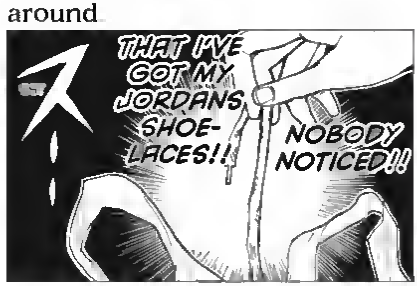

Tôgô Masakazu's statement may seem strange to American readers, considering the relative low status and pay of teachers in the States, but in Japan, it is possible for a teacher to have chosen the profession for those reasons. Teachers in Japan are better paid and better respected than their North American counterparts. However, it is still a very demanding profession, and there are other professions that pay better and get more respect—so most Japanese teachers' motivation is the desire to teach.

### *Nabe*, page 63
An autumn and winter treat in Japan, *nabe* is a large pot (the word actually means "pot") in which various meats and vegetables are boiled. The food is taken from the pot in the center of the table, dipped in a sauce, and eaten. The warmth of the stove, smell of the cooking foods, and communal atmosphere make for a uniquely Japanese experience that most diners look forward to with great anticipation.

### *Imonikai*, page 64
The kanji that make up the word *imonikai* mean "boiled potato party," and that's pretty much what this is. It's an outdoor party where potatoes and other root vegetables are stewed and served. Because stewing and *nabe* (see above) have a lot in common, it's a natural combination to mix the two into one big *nabe*-based party.

### Habañero, page 65
Indeed, the habañero chile, grown from Texas down to South America, is one of the hottest chiles around.

### *Udon* noodles, page 65
Thick white flour-based noodles that go well with stews like *nabe*. And they do look something like white sneaker shoelaces.




### *Ton-shiru*, page 67
*Ton-shiru* is a *miso* soup that is cooked with pork. It tends to have a richer flavor than normal *miso* soup.

### Jômon period, page 68
The Jômon period represents prehistoric Japan between 13,000 BC and about 300 BC. It is marked by the hunter-gatherer existence of its inhabitants and the pottery that they left behind.

### *The Gods of Cookerly*, page 75
No, this isn't a typo. Or...at least it isn't a typo on the part of Jin Kobayashi, Kodansha, or Del Rey. *The Gods of Cookerly* is a Hong Kong cooking show from the '90s that came to Japanese cable television in 2004 and 2005. Kobayashi-sensei spelled the English title exactly as it appeared on the show.

### *Fukujin-zuke*, page 83
Sliced vegetables pickled and served with soy sauce.

## Boripro, page 90

The Boripro agency in Tenma's dream world is Horipro in ours. It's one of the top talent agencies, representing long-time successes such as Akiko Wada and leading actors and actresses such as Kyôko Fukuda. Representation by them is a fast track to success in the entertainment world.

## Nii-chan, page 100

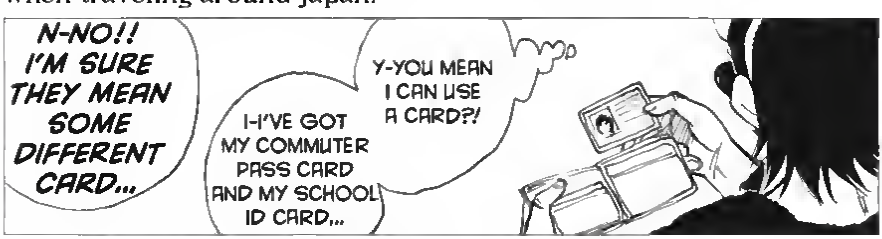
Although Shûji is Harima Kenji's cousin, he still calls Kenji *nii-chan* ("brother"—see the honorifics section). In the Japanese original, he also called him the slightly less respectful and less cute *aniki*, which means the same thing as *nii-chan*. But this translation used *nii-chan* for those situations, since there was little difference in meaning and the different word would add an additional foreign word to an already long list of relationship words.

## The menu, page 106

*Hinaiji-dori* is a bird native to the Aomori region of northern Japan. Satsuma is a region in Kyûshû in southern Japan. Sanriku refers to the seas off Aomori and Iwate prefectures in northern Japan. And the town of Himi is in Toyama prefecture in central Japan on the coast of the Sea of Japan. Although the food is grown or caught in Japan, it is cooked using Western methods, and so the establishment is considered a Western restaurant rather than a Japanese restaurant.

## Cards, page 108

Credit cards are popular in Japan, but not nearly so ubiquitous as in the States. They are not accepted in most restaurants and small businesses outside of large city centers, and rejected even in many urban businesses. Carrying a good amount of cash is a good idea when traveling around Japan.




## Hold-back Sensei, page 111

To be held back a year in school is called *ryûnen* in Japanese, so the fact that Hold-back Sensei's name, Ryû Nenji, has *ryûnen* in it is no coincidence.

## Write on Your Ears, page 120

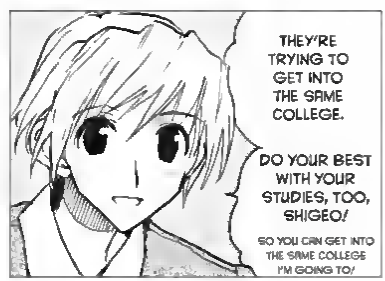
This is a reference to a famous Japanese ghost story about a ghost that haunted a Buddhist temple. To make sure that the ghost couldn't see him, a monk wrote sutras all over his body, but he forgot to write on his ears. The ghost couldn't see the parts of the monk's body with sutras, so it only saw a couple of ears hanging in the air. It ripped the ears off the invisible monk's body and took them away with him. So if you are writing on your body to protect yourself from ghosts, don't forget your ears!

## Semesters, page 121

The Japanese school year consists of three semesters: Spring, from the opening of school in late March or early April to summer vacation in mid-July; Fall, from the end of summer vacation in late August or early September to the end of December; and a short third semester from early January to the end of the school year in late February or early March.

## Getting into college, page 123

Entrance into most schools depends on passing tough entrance exams. However, a few students can qualify due to sporting or academic achievements or for other special reasons.


THEY'RE TRYING TO GET INTO THE SAME COLLEGE.
DO YOUR BEST WITH YOUR STUDIES, TOO, SHIGEO!
SO YOU CAN GET INTO THE SAME COLLEGE I'M GOING TO!

## Sorry to barge in, page 127

This is a standard Japanese phrase, *Ojama-shimasu!*, which means, "I am about to be a bother." It's the polite thing to say whenever entering someone's house as a guest.

## *Ii kuni tsukurô* and numbered mnemonics, page 127

The Japanese writing system allows for several different readings of its numbers. Many of these readings can be fashioned into sentences such as *ii kuni*. The two "1"s represent two 1's, and *ku* (9) and *ni* (2) combine to make the number 1192. So a large number of mnemonics have been developed to allow students to remember dates, math formulas, and other figures that come up on exams. *Ii kuni tsukurô* is one of the most well-known history mnemonics.

## Filet, lobster, and eclair, page 127

The pun was a little different in Japanese since the words for fulcrum, load, and effort are different in Japanese from their English counterparts. The Japanese words used the kanji 'ten,' which means "point," and Tenma

substituted sound-alike words using the kanji *ten*, which means "store." which So Tenma's answer in Japanese was "Main store, branch store, and sales department." Not quite translatable as a joke... So this English translation changed the words to a different Tenma obsession, food.

### *Soon I May Go to See You, Jiko-chû*, page 146

Starting with *Seka-chû* (*Sekai no Chûshin ni Ai wo Sakebu*, which literally translated means "Cry Out 'Love' from the Center of the World," but by author request was published in English under the name *Socrates in Love*) and continuing with *Ima Ai ni Yukimasu* (translated as "Be with You") and *Densha Otoko* (*Train Man*), there has been a rash of novels about idealized love that have gone on to become hits in all forms of pop-culture storytelling such as movies, TV dramas, manga, and other media. *Jiko-chû* and *Soon I May Go to See You* are the *School Rumble*–world equivalents of *Seka-chû* and *Be with You*.

### Chôno, page 148

The Chôno they're probably referring to would be the *School Rumble* version of top pro wrestler Masahiro Chôno (known in the West as Masa Chono). His usual theme music when he enters the ring is called Crash, a combination of the songs "Martial Arts" by Royal Hunt, 'Victory' (Nine Inch Nails Remix) by Puff Daddy & The Family, and "No Way Out" by Puff Daddy & The Family. Also, the first kanji in his name (chô) means butterfly, so having a theme song named "Butterfly" would be natural.

B-BUT HOW COULD I TELL HIM THAT?!
THAT ISN'T WESTERN MUSIC! IT'S CHÔNO'S THEME MUSIC WHEN HE ENTERS THE RING!!
IN PRO WRESTLING!!
BZZ-BZZ-BZZZT !!!

### Chanelle poison, page 155

This fragrance is probably the *School Rumble*–world equivalent of a cross between Chanel's perfume products and Christian Dior's Poison perfume.